

"A WEE KEEK BACK"

BY

JIM CAMPBELL



"CENTRAL AND WEST FIFE LOCAL HISTORY PRESERVATION"
 ("The Present Preserving the Past for the Future")

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At the time of writing this, I have been researching the Central and West Fife Local history for some eight years. During this time I have read quite a few books about Fife written by various and well known authors, most of which I have thoroughly enjoyed and found very enlightening, but I found a source of much greater interest and enlightenment when I began to research the local newspapers. Within the pages of "The Lochgelly Times", the "West Fife Echo" and most importantly "The Dunfermline Journal", I was delighted to find a veritable gold mine of information regarding the development of Central and West Fife. Almost everything of any importance at all in regards to the Central and West Fife area was reported somewhere within the pages of those newspapers, from the early days of coal mining, the beginning and building of the Tay and Forth Railway Bridges, the building and opening of Schools, Co-operative Societies, Gothenburg's, Miners Welfare Institutes, of the Tramway cars being introduced, the appearance of the Automobile, the Education Act, the introduction of electricity, the opening up of the mining industry in the area, the mining disasters, the Linen trade, the political scene, the birth of towns, burgh's and villages, in short, I believe I discovered for myself the beginning of the Fife that we now know, and thanks to the many different articles consisting of reminiscences, Sanitary Inspectors Reports, Medical Officers reports, etc, that appear in these newspapers, we have been left with a reasonably authentic account of what life was like in Fife in the days gone by.

It is my intention in collecting these articles, to try and share with the reader some of the many interesting and enlightening things I have come across in these newspapers.

"A Wee Keek Back"

There is certainly no shortage of material available, and my only hopes are that you will share my pleasure and enjoyment in reading parts of the story of Fife, delivered in the same original format as I found it.

There is an abundance of similar articles contained within the pages of the various newspapers available on microfilm held at the Dunfermline Central Library, all it takes is a wee bit of time and patience to find the gems that are lying there just waiting to be read again.

To help you in your search for information about your particular subject/interest I have also begun to index the "Lochgelly Times", the "West Fife Echo" and "The Dunfermline Journal". I wish you well and many happy hours of reading and perhaps you in turn will be able and willing to add to the collection I have begun by providing copies of your 'finds' to your local library.

(The collection of this material was commenced in April, 1994, with the intention of adding to it as and when I can find the time to do so.)

JIM C.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1873.

LOCHGELLY.

THE MINERS' UNION. - On Thursday morning the men employed in the Minto Ironstone Pit, belonging to the Lochgelly Iron and Coal Company, instead of descending to their work as usual, returned home in a body, one of their number having, as they allege, refused to comply with the Rules of the Union. On learning the cause of the stoppage, the management sent for the men and informed them that if they did not return to their work they would be brought up for a breach of contract. A general meeting of the men was held in the evening, when it was resolved that the men in Minto Pit return in the meantime to their work, and that the party referred to be allowed till Saturday to come to a decision as to whether he is willing to comply with the Rules of the Association or not. This case, we may add, is of a somewhat peculiar nature, as we understand he does not object to enter the Union, but at one time having been a member, and since then been otherwise employed than as a miner, he considers that all that is necessary for him to do is to comply with Rule 41 of the Association, which states that "if any member of the Association goes to any other employment, and wishes to become a member of the Union, he will be admitted by payment of 2s 6d". The men contend that he has not been otherwise employed than as a miner, and that consequently he is bound (they say) to pay the full entrance fee before he can claim to be a member of the Association.

END OF THE MINERS STRIKE. - A good deal of agitation has prevailed among the miners here during the past fortnight, in connection with the Mines Regulation Bill which came into operation on the first of January. Through a blunder or some other cause in the framing of the Act, one of the principle clauses which enjoins upon the employer the duty of seeing to the safety of the working places previous to the men proceeding to their work, was rendered null and void, at least until the first of April, by the masters being granted the power to retain the old special rules, part of which are directly opposed to the above mentioned class. It having been agreed at a mass meeting held at Dunfermline on Friday last, that a vote be taken at the various collieries, as to whether the men should return to their work or continue on strike, a meeting of the men employed by the Lochgelly Iron and Coal Company, was held here on Saturday, to consider what course to pursue. The question having been put to vote, it was found that the motion for resuming work was carried by a large majority, only 17 having voted for remaining out. The result was laid before a delegate meeting at Dunfermline on Monday, where the plebiscite at the various collieries was declared as follows: - For working under the old special rules until first April, 1309; for remaining out, 2287; the majority for the latter plan being thus, 978. It was then agreed at the general meeting held shortly afterwards in the Music Hall, that no work be done at any of the collieries within the bounds of the Association until such time as the masters agree to allow the full benefit of that part of the Act which relates to the propping of the roof and sides of the mines. On learning the result of the meeting at Dunfermline on Monday, another meeting of the Lochgelly men was held the same evening, at which a deputation was appointed to confer with the manager, with the

view of coming to an amicable arrangement in connection with the present dispute. Before the meeting broke up, the deputation returned and intimated that the manager had signified his willingness to comply with that part of the Act which enjoins upon him the duty of seeing to the safety of his working places, and the entrances thereto previous to the men proceeding to their work. This being all the men had contended for, the meeting resolved that they return to their work on Wednesday, the delegate for the district being instructed to attend the board meeting in Dunfermline on Tuesday, and explain the decision arrived at by the men here. Although at that meeting it was agreed to by a majority that work be resumed at all the collieries, it was resolved at a later stage of the proceedings that the opinion of the men be taken as to the advisability of affording support to those who, not having been promised the full benefit of the Act, may still consider it to be their duty to remain out. Another meeting of the miners here was held on Tuesday evening, to consider this proposal, when it was agreed to support the men who may be placed in these circumstances. At Lumphinnans colliery, the men returned to their work on Wednesday, the manager having agreed to comply with the 16th sub-section of the Act. We consider it proper to refer here to the conciliatory spirit shown by Mr Muir, the manager at Milton colliery, throughout the course of these proceedings. This gentleman assured his men in the most explicit terms that he was prepared to give them the full benefit of the Act, as soon as it came into operation. The men were therefore placed in a most difficult position, as having no grievance to complain of, they were desirous of continuing at work, while at the same time they were anxious that nothing should be done by them which might in any degree interfere with the efforts of their fellow-workmen to obtain what they considered they were justly entitled to. It must therefore be a pleasant reflection to all connected with the Milton colliery, that nothing has occurred on this occasion to disturb the friendly feeling which had all along existed between Mr Muir and his men. The Lochgelly furnaces which had been dampened for more than a fortnight, were set in operation on Wednesday morning, and are now again in full blast. The price of coals has almost been doubled here within the past week, but it is expected that with the prospect of increased supply, prices will in a short time fall considerably.

DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

*November 28th 1874**LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF BALLINGRY PARISH SCHOOL*

On Thursday last, the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of Ballingry Parish School buildings at Ballingry was celebrated with Masonic honours. The important event excited a good deal of interest throughout the district, so much so, that a large number of people unconnected with Free Masonry accompanied the brethren to view the proceedings at Ballingry, two or three miles from Lochgelly. The morning had been wet which made it very dirty stepping on the country roads, but shortly after ten o'clock the rain ceased, and it continued fair during the day. The brethren of the "Minto Lodge", Lochgelly, met in the New Hall, about eleven o'clock, where they were joined by deputations from the Lodges in Dunfermline, Crossgates and Leslie. Being marshalled in order they left Lochgelly about noon, headed by the local instrumental band, and proceeded northward to the place where the buildings are in course of erection, which is about quarter of a mile beyond the newly erected houses forming Lochore village. Before relating what followed, however, it may be profitable to make a brief statement respecting the school which was the occasion of so widespread and interesting regard.

The School Board of Ballingry having found that the present schoolhouse at Flockhouse was insufficient in respect of accommodation, and otherwise unsuitable because of its situation, resolved about the beginning of the year to erect new school buildings, and also a schoolmaster's house. In their search for a more favourable spot they fixed upon a site on an elevated situation at the corner of a field to the north-east of Hynds farm steading, and close to the public highway. They then requested Mr Andrew Scobie, architect, Dunfermline, to prepare plans and specifications for a school capable of accommodating 250 pupils; this building together with the schoolmaster's house was estimated to cost £2,000. The plans were submitted and approved, and thereafter tenders were accepted from the following tradesmen - For the mason work - Messrs Williamson, Kinglassie; joiner work - Mr David Henderson, Lochgelly; plaster work - Mr Schoolbred, Lochgelly; slater work - Mr I Donaldson, Kelty; and for the plumber work, Mr Porteens, Kinross. Mr Horn, Dollar, was appointed Inspector of the work. The building will be constructed on the gothic type of architecture, showing a frontage of 105 feet with 55 feet on the sides. When finished they will have a picturesque appearance on their elevated situation, and also from the contrasting colours of the Whinstone and freestone with which it is being erected. It is flanked with gables having four mullioned windows and label mouldings, the whole finished with free-stone couracry. The primary object of the Board was to select a site in every way conducive to the health of the pupils both for air and light; the same principle has been studiously kept in view in all the sanitary arrangements, inside as well as out. This is shown in the construction of the classrooms, which will be well ventilated - the height from floor to ceiling being fifteen feet. There is a mixed classroom, another for the infant department, two smaller classrooms, a lavatory, and cloak and hat room. The school-rooms are to be

heated by what is known as the Manchester school grate; the cold air is admitted by an aperture in the wall communicating with the back of the grate where it is heated and ascends in flues to within 18 inches of the ceiling, where it is then given off into the apartments. The teacher's house forms the right wing of the buildings and is divided into five apartments. To this there is attached a garden, and two separate play grounds for boys and girls. When these buildings are completed and occupied it is expected they will meet the requirements of the district, and to this there has been added the efforts of the School Board in the neighbouring parish of Beath. At their desire Mr Scobie has in hand plans for a school at Cowdenbeath, which is intended to accommodate 550 pupils - these buildings also include a school-master's house.

The company representing the various bodies of Freemasons reached the partially erected building between one and two o'clock and took up their position around a stone in the South-east wing where all the requisite preparations had previously been made. The proceedings were conducted with impressive solemnity, the band having played the Old Hundred, the Rev Mr Pennel, minister of the parish and chairman of the School Board, offered up prayer. At the request of Mr Andrew Galloway R.W.M.; one of the brethren placed in a cavity of the lower stone a bottle containing the names of the members of the School Board, the names of the Kirk Session, several coins of the realm and copies of newspapers. Two of the operative masons filled up the cavity and spread a bed of lime, the upper stone was lowered into its place; after which the brethren in compliance with the mysteries of their craft applied to it the level, square and plummet; it was declared to be correctly adjusted; corn, wine and oil were then poured upon it, three raps were made with a mallet, and the Master invoked a blessing on the work and on the objects of the building. The pupils attending the parish school were on the grounds under the charge of their teacher, Mr Keppie, and near the close of the ceremony they united in singing a hymn. Mr W.B. Constable, Jun, secretary of the School Board then read a minute of the above proceedings after which Mr Galloway briefly adverted to the inestimable benefits of education for the furtherance of which the building was being erected. He then called for three cheers for its success. The Rev Mr Pennel expressed gratification at meeting so many of the brethren; occasions like the present were calculated to promote respect and friendship, and having thanked the brethren for their attendance he reciprocated the sentiments of the Master that the purpose of the above might be greatly successful and also that the brotherly love which subsisted among the Masonic craft might continue and go on to increase. He then presented to Mr Galloway a silver trowel, bearing an appropriate inscription, as a memorial of that day's work and the part he had fulfilled in conducting the ceremony. The gift was duly acknowledged after which the company returned to Lochgelly.

THE DINNER

The members of the Minto Lodge, and the brethren forming the deputations from other lodges, and also members of the Ballingry School Board dined together in the Lodge Room of the Minto brethren during the afternoon; upwards of sixty gentlemen were present. The Rev Mr Pennel presided; and the duties of croupier were fulfilled by Mr Galloway, and Mr R. Lindsay.

The Chairman gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, and Dr Mungall having replied for the volunteers.

Mr A Galloway proposed "The School Board of Ballingry". The company had earned the approbation of the Lodge, they had enjoyed a day's outing and done good work. That work had been originated by the School Board of Ballingry, and what they had just been engaged about they had done it well. He would not go into any minute but there was a remarkable coincidence connected with the whole thing, he did not know if it had been suggested by the Board because of their sympathy with Freemasonry, but strength and beauty which were essential attributes of the craft, had been prominently brought forward by the School Board. First there was the selection of the site, and their care for the health of the pupils, in that they had displayed wisdom like sensible men. The materials of the building were composed of whin-stone and freestone which gives strength to the whole fabric. He hoped that the praiseworthy manner in which the Board had sought to carry out their duty would meet with the success they all desired.

The Chairman responded, and thanked the company for their good wishes. He could assure them, the Board had had tough work. To begin at the beginning. Before 1860 the heritors of the parish became convinced of the necessity of providing better school accommodation if they would do justice to both teachers and children. The school buildings were awkwardly placed with an open drain near them. Plans were drawn up for a new school which would have suited at that date, but the difficulty was to get a site and obstacles came in the way. The Education Act came into operation and the School Board was elected. Much deliberation had taken place, and a great deal had to be done before the red-tape objections were overcome, and he expected they would have the approval of the ratepayers for what they had done. It was a building for which they would have no cause to feel ashamed. It would not be a barn altogether, there would be some ornamentation. That subject had caused the only cross at the Board. One member took a partiality for another site and afterwards resigned. They had gone on - there were differences of opinion occasionally - but every one could not expect that effect would be given to his views, he had been outvoted himself about the appointment of the officials, and had submitted to it. Having thanked the company for the part they had taken in laying the foundation stone, he said he had never seen during his intercourse with freemasons, since he was admitted to the Lodge in Glasgow, anything prejudicial to his work as a preacher of the everlasting gospel. He felt really proud of their sympathy, and but for the state of his health he would visit their lodge oftener.

Dr Mungall proposed "Success to the building".

Mr R. Lindsay replied, and stated that he had built the village near the school, which would be another monument to the name of Lindsay. He was very pleased to see the School Board of Ballingry had been equal to their duty in devising means to meet the educational wants of that large and increasing population. That district of country was not the least historic in Scotland. It was in that district that the Caledonians waged war with the Roman Legions under Agricola, indeed up to the present day it was not known whether the final struggle took place at the foot of the Grampians or there. He hoped that the building would become a monument of the skill of its architect, Mr Scobie.

Mr Henry Cook proposed "The educational interests of the district". Those interests were in the keeping of the School Board, and they all felt that the well-being of the Ballingry parish was committed to good hands. Their craft took a great interest in that district, there was a vast amount of mineral wealth there yet to be got at, and it was desirable that the intelligence of the people should keep pace with their industry. There was another feature peculiar to the district which accounted for the large quantity of stones there if the report was true. An ancient gentleman who should be nameless - he was not a mason - gathered his lap full of stones for the purpose of filling up Lochleven. On the way North the apron strings broke, and hence the immense quantity of stones in Ballingry.

Mr Keppie, parish teacher, Ballingry, replied, and gave a brief description of the progress of education in the parish, where he had taught during the last 17 years. In 1831 the population of the parish was 278, in 1851 it was 548, then ten years later it was 736, and in 1871 it was 982. The old school house had been erected in a most unfortunate place so far as sanitary considerations were concerned, but he had gone on with it all these years and made the best of it. The heritors were not unmindful of his work, for during that period they increased his salary. But Acts of Parliament are passed at times, and when they do come into operation they make great changes. Respecting the School Board he could not desire to be under the supervision of better men, who had really at heart the well-being of the district. He felt proud to say that day's work was one of the most pleasing days of his life. When the school was ready for occupation the compulsory classes would be put in operation, and he could ensure them that no effort would be wanting on his part to cope with the duties required of him.

Mr Gillespie proposed, and Mr MacDonald Bucklyvie responded to the toast of "The Clergy".

Mr H. Cook proposed the "Minto Lodge" of which he had once been a member before entering the lodge at Crossgates. Mr Galloway acknowledged the compliment on behalf of the lodge. Mr Cook proposed "The mining interests of the country" with which the well-being of the district was bound up; desiderating for the locality the introduction of additional trades where there was no such water power at their disposal.

Mr George Gillespie proposed the Agricultural interest, to which Mr W.B. Dick responded.

Mr W.B. Constable gave "The Town and Trade of Lochgelly" which was acknowledged by Mr Bethune, merchant.

Songs were contributed by members of the company at intervals, and the proceedings through the day were conducted in lively satisfaction.

“THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL”

SATURDAY, 6th JUNE, 1874

THE PROVOST'S ROBES

The Provost of Dunfermline must be an extraordinary exception to provosts and mayors in general. Mr Nichol Jarvie thought the fact he was a Glasgow bailie quite sufficient to insure his safety in all places at all times. If bailies have a "guid conceit o' themsels." it is but right that provosts should be allowed to hold their own persons in high esteem. And doubtless do so, as a rule. They are no "small beer" in their own estimation, whatever may be the opinion of other people. But the Provost of Dunfermline would seem to be an unusual exception to this prevailing weakness among provincial dignitaries. According to a paragraph in the morning papers he has declined the invitation to the Lord Mayor's banquet at the Mansion House "on the ground that, as provost, he has no badge or robes to distinguish him in his official capacity." Ye gods! That a lord provost should seek "distinction" by the aid of anything but his own august person. The worthy burghers of Dunfermline ought to feel insulted by their provost. Badges were made for shoeblacks and cabmen - not for provosts. —

“Sportsman”

It will scarcely be credited, but we have it on good authority that Dunfermline is not to be present at the Lord Mayor's feast. Our own Edinburgh will be present in all the magnificence of a Right Honourable. Glasgow will flourish in all the dignity of an Honourable. Aberdeen and Perth will bear themselves as become Lords. But Dunfermline sulks like Achilles in his tent. This is a misfortune, as our readers will see at once, of the very first magnitude. Dunfermline is a burgh of the foremost importance in Scotland. It was the favourite residence of the sainted Margaret. The patriot King, the glorious Bruce, sleeps within the precincts of its Abbey Church. The most prossie London Alderman knows about Dunfermline. It is a thousand pities that the civic chief of the ancient town is not to be present. Every Scotchman who comes to know all the fact will regret it bitterly. But how much will his anguish be augmented when he learns the ignominious case. Our industrious and patient, though occasionally fiery, countrymen have had to endure many a gibe apropos of their suppressed poverty and parsimony. We fear that these gibes will multiply as they have never done before, and our national sores be correspondingly rawed, when it comes to be known that Dunfermline will not be present on this ensuing occasion for no reason more nor less than just - we hesitate to put the case plainly, but we put it - just for want of "claes." Dunfermline's position is simply this, that he has nothing to wear. It is a most humiliating cause, no doubt, but it is certainly much better that the truth should be frankly told; otherwise the Provost might have been exposed to much misjudgement on the part of his fellow countrymen. Let us not, however, be

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misunderstood in these remarks about the Provost of Dunfermline's poverty, or absolute nakedness, in the matter of clothes. In these pernicky times it is necessary to be distinct. Suffice it to state explicitly - what every intelligent reader will have understood all along - that is to public and not private or mere body raiment, as it may be called, that our remarks have reference. He has plenty clothes to appear in as a private gentleman, but as the public representative of the historic burgh of Dunfermline he is - we repeat it with sorrow - absolutely naked. He cannot encircle his manly form with such robes as those which glorify the corporeal case of our own chief magistrate - robes which are flung round some bailies of our acquaintance would make them feel as if their Lapland economy had suddenly shot up to the dimensions of that Goliath of Garth. If he were to present himself at this ceremonial feast it could only be in the common swallow-tail and white necktie of the period. And if he were thus to present himself, how would it be possible for the Lord Mayor to know who he was? He would almost certainly be mistaken for either a green-grocer or an ex-moderator, and would consequently be exposed to insult. Undoubtedly it is better that the Provost should stay at home. But it says little for the enterprising manufacturing population of that liberal burgh that they do not honour their chief magistrate more. An inch or two either of ticks and checks or twilled damask would pay for all the velvet and brocade that are required. But the opportunity has been lost. The Provost of Dunfermline will not present his stalwart form at the Lord Mayor's banquet, and when the banquet comes round, Dunfermline and all Scotland will be humiliated. His Lordship will naturally call out in a loud and distinct voice, with an accent of astonishment, "Is Dunfermline not here?" and then, in response to that natural question, some penny whistle like the voice of the Provost of Queensferry or the Provost of Culross will call out, "My Lord, he canna come: he has nae claes," and so will Dunfermline be dishonoured to an extent to which no profits on the linen trade can ever be commensurate. -

"Scotsman"

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1875.

MINERS HOUSES IN FIFE AND CLACKMANNAN

Part (1)

A good reputation, if it be undeserved, is a troublesome possession, especially when people begin to find out the truth, I went to Fife and Clackmannan with high expectations as to the character of the mining villages, and I have returned to say that they are no great things after all. Perhaps I am disposed to judge them severely, just as one is apt to be hard upon a fellow who having passed for "a very superior person", turns out to be no better than his neighbours, if half as good. They were represented to me - some at least of these mining settlements - as so many happy valleys, in which life had no more envious strife than that of growing competitive flowers, and where miners sat under the vines and fig trees, their own property and of their own planting, breathing an atmosphere of contentment and high moral purity. This is too serene a picture. There are, it is true, several instances of colliers living in houses of their own at Townhill, near Dunfermline; and I am told that Mr Stevenson, the proprietor of the neighbouring Pits, takes great interest in the social well-being of his people, yet the old Rows in the village over which he presides almost equal, in despair and discomfort, any to be found in the district. In simple truth, Fife and Clackmannan are no way superior, in so far as miners' houses are concerned, to any of other Counties I have visited. They present a lower average than of Ayrshire, and come a long way behind Lothians, where some of the mining villages are the finest I have seen. As compared with Lanarkshire, Fife and Clackmannan reach neither its lowest depths nor its very heights of excellence. I found nothing beyond the Forth equal to Auchinstarry houses in their surroundings, or even to those recently erected by Mr Addie at Rosehall; and on the other hand, although disease is prevalent in one of the villages in Fife, I did not find any place so terrible squalid and filthy as two or three of the fever dens in the West. The houses in the mining hamlets near Dunfermline are both very old and comparatively new, regarding which the general remark may be made that the proprietors do a great deal for the old Rows and comparatively little for those of modern date. Nobody will be disposed to quarrel with them for mending decaying floors and making crazy roofs watertight, but it is hardly creditable that they should so entirely neglect sanitation in the newer villages. These look wonderfully well from the outside, but they will not bear close examination. At King's Seat, a large and rapidly-extending community near Dunfermline, as at Burnfoot, near Dalmellington, there is not, so far as I could learn, a single ashpit or closet provided for the company houses. This may not create much mischief in winter, but one can scarcely realise the consequences if an epidemic break out in the summer, with the very essence of contagion lying all round. And yet this is the kind of thing which Dr Maclachlan, surgeon to the Dalmellington Company, described in a recent letter to the Glasgow Herald as the "wise sanitary regulations" of the Company.

In the Lothians, miners' houses used to be free to the servants of the Company, and in

Fifeshire this was also the rule until quite recently. Now, however, fortnightly payments are extracted, which, in the case of the proprietor of Wellwood, are said to have increased his yearly revenues to the extent of about a thousand pounds. All over the district I have learned that the rents, which were merely nominal before, have been increased, or "Heighted", as the women term it, and there is a good deal of grumbling in consequence. In Clackmannan district, again the freeholders are continued, but the men complain that indirectly they require to pay enormous rents. It is the custom, they say, to give the employer 25 cwt. of coal to the ton, instead of 20 cwt., the extra 5 cwt. being rendered in the name of house rent. If we take 30 tons of coal per month as being the average product of the miner, and allow him 1½d for every cwt., it appears that he pays 15s 7½d for houses that are dear at 8s a month, and if a father and three sons living under one roof, are in the same Company's service, the payment is four times as great. The miners certainly contend that this must be regarded as house rent, and deplore the continuance of such a system, but as I afterwards ascertained that in Fife, where houses are not now free, the men give, in some instances, 24 cwt. to the ton, it would appear to be simply the usage of the trade irrespective of occupancy. With reference to the internal condition of the houses in both districts, they are better kept than similar dwellings in the West. One reason for this, probably, is that Fifeshire miners are a settled, untravelling brotherhood, who cling to the scenes of their youth, entertaining towards them a warmer feeling than is possessed by the shifting classes nearer Glasgow, who have no such home ties. Perhaps also, we may seek for a partial explanation in the fact that very few Irish families are located in Fife or Clackmannan. Be that as it may, I can only say that in Fifeshire I visited miners dwellings consisting of single apartments and two rooms, which were as cosy and bright and well furnished as anyone could desire. These were not model cottages either, but very old houses, which had been put into such repair as encouraged the housewives to be orderly and neat. In some of the villages there is a good deal of overcrowding, which does not arise from keeping lodgers, but from the largeness of the families. Miners, as a rule, seem to marry very early, and are as much averse to the family name dying out as are the owners of broad acres, who trace their descent from Kings and Nobles. All over Scotland the tenure of occupancy appears to be the same. The miner is only entitled to remain in the house while he continues in the service of the Company. For this reason many of them prefer to live in large towns, where these exist in the neighbourhood of the Pits, and, as far as I have been able to gather, they pay a higher rents than those, which are charged, for Company houses. It is generally said that the miners and their wives are offensively coarse, and I was told to expect much incivility in the course of my inquiries. This, however, I have not experienced. There are, of course, many rakish looking characters among them, but I have always got civility, even from the least refined, and frank, smiling courtesy from by far the larger number.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1875.

MINERS HOUSES IN FIFE AND CLACKMANNAN

Part (2)

Dunfermline has a proud history. Its venerable Abbey and Royal ruins might form a tempting theme for one whose commission, more elastic than my own, permitted him to go back to the days of the Bruce. Thirty or forty years however, are all that my historic tether may include, and even this finger length of time I can only deal with a sentence. Within that comparatively brief period Fifeshire has undergone a remarkable transformation by the development of the Railways, and the opening up of the coal pits. Bleak moorlands of that early time are now populous mining villages, to which extensions are almost continually being made, and the modest hamlets of forty years ago have assumed all the bustle and importance of modern burghs, with ale-houses, and churches, and police stations.

In my last letter, I enumerated the villages which I had overtaken during two days driving in Fifeshire, and now proceed to refer to them in the order then indicated, this happening also to be the order in which they were visited. It is perhaps necessary to say that Baldrige Row, to which I first proceed, is not set down in my list of places. Baldrige Row is connected with Wellwood Colliery, but I rather think that it enjoys no other local patronage or alliance. It is within 20 minutes walk of Dunfermline Cross, but nobody cares to confess it belongs to Dunfermline. It is indeed a most unsavoury place and is only saved from discreditable rivalry with some other Rows I have seen by the proprietor bestowing a little more care upon the houses, which must be somewhere about a hundred years old. A trench has been formed behind the Rows, which keep the interior a trifle drier than it would otherwise be, and ashes laid in the front, terminating in a tile drain, serve to make the doors tidier than one might expect to find them. The interior of some of the houses, however, is enough to make the boldest hold his breath for a time, the people themselves being more to blame for this than the Landlord, although he is not altogether guiltless. Baldrige Row, to state the case frankly, is one of many similar places which should be improved off the face of the earth. In the first house we are introduced to an old woman of fourscore, living in a single apartment which is low in the damp-stained ceiling, badly lighted, and altogether miserable. In her young days she worked in the pits, and is now permitted to sit rent free. Similar places further along the Row bring a rent of 8d a week, and two apartments 4s 6d a month. In the second house, the rain finds its way through the roof above one of the beds, and on a recent wet Saturday the tenant removed her bedding, the "Tick" and the sheets being both wet. Outside the houses there are no conveniences of any kind. The Dunfermline water supply is available at Baldrige Row

Milesmark, a village at a short distance, affords a pleasing contrast to the hamlet we

have just left. It consists of The School Row, The Cottage Row, and The Castle, which are also furnished with Dunfermline water. In the School Row there are seven, and in the Cottage Row six houses. They are uniform in style and internal arrangement – large rooms and kitchens, with lofty ceilings, lumpy stone floors, and ample window space on both sides. The rent for such houses is 7s 6d a month. They are very well furnished, several of the rooms having tester beds with Damask curtains, engravings on the walls, and on the tables family Bibles and other books, showing that the people do not belong to the lower class of miners. The Castle is a two-storeyed building, tenanted by the humbler class. At one end of the block, containing some two and twenty houses, is an old ruin which has been made a depository for refuse, and proves a nuisance to the neighbouring tenants. An ashpit has been set down at the opposite end of the houses, from which it is well removed, and its contents are regularly removed. The two flats of the Castle are both reached from the front entrance, two houses on the ground floor being entered at the foot of the inner staircase leading to the upper storey, where there are two tenants. Single apartments with small bed closets are rented at 5s a month. In one of these lives a family of ten, including three grown-up daughters, who are employed at a factory in Dunfermline.

Parknuek, another small mining village, consists of three Rows of one-storey houses. Mrs Greer, who owns a colliery near at hand, is the proprietress of one of the Rows. These are very damp houses, but as the tenants are not called upon to pay rent, they cannot with any grace insist upon repairs being executed. In the second Row, forming a continuation of Mrs Greer's, are 17 houses belonging to the Wellwood Colliery, in much the same condition as those already noticed.

The village of Wellwood, which we next reach, is larger than any we have visited in Fife. Taking the first Row of stone houses, only occupied in the last three months, we find they are large rooms and kitchens with wooden floors in both apartments. They were well raised from the ground, and appear to be excellent houses. There are no ashpits for the Row. Engine Row, which stands opposite, is of quite a different description. The houses are very old, and 5s 8d a month is charged for two apartments, rent having been exacted for the first time a few weeks ago. The proprietor is endeavouring to repair them, now that the free list is suspended, but little progress has yet been made, and in the meantime his tenantry are in unveiled rebellion. There is a great deal of damp in Engine Row. "What is your floor like?" I said to an elderly woman who was detailing her grievances. "Deil a floor I hae" she said "It's naething but earth, and I hae cloots laid doon and every dagon't thing to keep it dry". I saw the floor, and "every dagon't thing" seemed to be little better than nothing for her purpose. Single apartments at Engine Row are rented at 4s a month. The road in front of the houses was simply a mud hole on the day of my visit. "Palace Row", another of the glories of Wellwood, has been so called, I presume, because it is the very antipodes of what the name suggests. The houses entering from the Main Street are good enough, but those on the lower level at the other side are dark, dirty places and, as may be inferred from their situation, are very damp. For two apartments, a rent of 5s a month is charged. In the "Store Row" I went into some houses of peculiarly narrow construction, one of them having a space of a foot and a half between a small trunk in front of the room bed and the opposite wall. Six of a family reside here, the rent being 3s 4d a month. A woman living in this Row told me

that going from home on one occasion from Friday till Monday, she found on her return that water had lodged in her house to a depth of several inches to the detriment of an eight day clock, which she holds in great regard. The “North Square” consists of 23 very good room and kitchen houses, the rent, only recently imposed, being 7s 6d a month.

The pits of Townhill are worked by Mr Stevenson, the lands belonging to the town of Dunfermline. Townhill is a large village, and I believe the morale of the place has been greatly improved under Mr Stevenson’s rule. That, however, does not come within the scope of my inquiry. So far as its houses are concerned, Townhill does not stand very high. There are a number of excellent Rows in the village, and quite as many of which it is impossible to speak in terms of approval. Take the Back Row, which first invited out attention as we enter the village. The houses are old and decidedly inferior, with stone floors and damp beds and walls – single apartments are being rented at 3s a month. One of the women told me she had not been a month in Townhill when she found one of her mattresses was rotten with damp. At the end of this Row, which seems to be the worst in the village, are a few houses about three years old, yet even these are not of a high class. The tenants have only the four walls in which to stow away their belongings, “Presses” being apparently regarded as modern superfluities. Ashes and all refuse are laid out in front of the doors, but as they are regularly taken away there is little ground for complaint on this score. In the centre of Townhill we come upon five houses, the property of the miners who occupy them. There may be more of this class, but if so I was unable to discover them. They are good room and kitchen houses, two of stone and the others of brick, they are finished in a superior style. One of the brick houses was built by Mr Stevenson, and purchased from him about six months ago for £150. It was the wife of the proprietor with whom I spoke on the subject, and she was not sure of the exact sum paid. This cost is inclusive of about fifty yards of garden ground at the back. In “Loch Row”, the houses are above the level of the roadway, notwithstanding which some of them are not quite free from damp, and the tenants say that they are “sair bothered wi’ reek”. In front are a capital pavement and drain. The people give Mr Stevenson credit for keeping the roads tidy, but I saw at least one huge ashpit overflowing with filth, set down within a dozen feet or so from the back windows of dwelling houses. The most conspicuous Rows in Townhill are three painted outside in vermilion, and belonging to the Muircockhall Coal Company. Although the exterior is rather garish, these are among the best houses in Townhill. They are single apartments and rooms and kitchens, the rent for the double ends being 8s 6d a month. Attached to each of the Rows are ashpits, and closets, and coal cellars.

Kingseat, which we afterwards reach, is connected with the Halbeath Coal Company – Messrs Wallace and Henderson. It is a large village which has sprung into existence within the last few years. The houses on the line of the Main Road are owned by private proprietors, but all the others, I was informed, belong to the Company. I only went into two or three, as they are all built on the same principle, and are apparently very good dwellings, although liable to the objection that they are destitute of all needed conveniences. There are no ashpits or closets over the village, as far as I could learn – certainly there are none connected with the Row I visited, and the back ground is very nasty. Good rooms and kitchens here are rented at 6s 8d a month. The

water for the village is got from a field near at hand. It is surface water and becomes dirty in rainy weather.

Halbeath, belonging to the Coal Company of that name, is a scrambling village, chiefly built on a hill-side. It is continued down in the valley, and on the opposite slope claims recognition with a few straggling tenements. The best way to deal with the houses at Halbeath would doubtless be to pull them down from roof to basement, but in the meantime it must be admitted that the Company are doing what they can to make them decently habitable, and show how much might be done in such places as Dandy Row and the Red Toon to improve the dwellings of the poor. Wooden floors have been put in some of the frailest, and in other respects the houses have been altered to the better. There is still much damp in many of them, and this will continue to be the case until a thorough system of drainage is carried out.

Crossgates is a large village of old houses tenanted by miners in the employment of the Halbeath, Fordell, and Netherbeath Coal Companies, and is situated in the Parishes of Dunfermline and Dalgetty. This division of responsibility has an unfortunate effect, each proprietor and Parish leaving it to the other to inaugurate much needed improvements. The houses, so far as I saw them, and I was in a good many, are low in the ceilings, badly lighted, and have earthened floors scooped out into what may almost be called mud holes. Coals are kept below the bed, ashes thrown where they must be offensive, and open drains within a foot of the doors in one of the Roes lie chocked up and smelling.

Fordell, which is next reached, was represented to me as a model village, belonging to Mr Henderson, of the Fordell Coal Company. Simple candour, however, compels me to say that it is nothing of the kind. It is true that there is one very fine Row of houses which we reach through long kitchen gardens and neatly arranged flower pots. These are room and kitchens entered from the opposite sides of the passage, which is ventilated by doors in front and rear. They are large and well finished houses, the rents being 6s 8d a month. Mr Henderson, I am told, stimulates a love for flowers by offering prizes in summer for the best kept gardens, and I have no doubt the result of the competition thus created an abundance of colours and fragrances; but as there are no outhouses of any kind, the chances are that the odours in warm weather will be unpleasantly mingled. Right opposite this Row is an old range leased by Mr Henderson from the Carron Company. The first house we enter is tenanted by a young man who is confined to bed, his leg having been broken in the pit. It is a "House and a Half", as it is called, or a kitchen with a stone floor and damp walls, and a room barely seven feet broad, for which a rent of 6d a month is paid. Single apartments along the Row are 5s a month. They are all well kept, but very damp. Elsewhere is the "Square", in which the houses are quite bad as any we have seen. Scarlet fever has entered one family.

Donibristle, belonging to the Donibristle Coal Company, consists of three old Rows and one new Row. In the first house which I entered in the first Row, I found three children in bed, recovering from scarlet fever. This disease has been specially rife in the opposite Row of new houses, three children having died since the beginning of the year, and others were down with fever on the day of my visit. No grow-up people

have been seized, the eldest victim being a boy of nine years, who died. The houses in this Row are all good rooms and kitchens, rented at 7s 8d a month. In one of them a family live – father, and mother, three grown-up sons, four daughters, and a boy. The ground at the back is untidy, the only outhouses being pig-styes and hen coops.

Moss-Road, near Cowdenbeath, is built on moss, which extends for miles around. The houses are comparatively new, rooms and kitchens being 7s 8d a month. Outside are coal cellars for each tenant, and ashpits and closets, the cleanliness which is looked after by a man; the water for Moss-Road comes from a going pit, led into pump wells placed near the ashpits and closets. One sample which I tasted showed slight impurity. The people complain bitterly about the water, and have a fixed belief, in which I do not share, that it is polluted by the neighbouring ashpits.

Cowdenbeath is such a large village that I cannot pretend minutely to describe the houses which chiefly belong to the Cowdenbeath and Lochgelly Coal Companies. A number of them are very old, and the sanitary arrangements of the defective character which is generally applicable to all the Fife villages I have visited. There are also several brick Rows of modern date, and a range of two-storey stone buildings, as yet only partially occupied, belonging to the Cowdenbeath Company, which for internal convenience and the completeness of the arrangements outside, are far and away the best in the whole Country side. On the ground floor, entered from a common highway, the rooms and kitchens (rented at 9s 4d a month) are still damp in the walls, but otherwise are all that could be desired. The walls, as I observed from tenements in the block still in the course of erection, are not lathed, and there is thus the danger of a tendency to permanent dampness. The upper floor is reached by an outside stair at the back of the houses, which are of one and two rooms and kitchen, being quite as roomy as those below. Coal cellars are provided for each tenant, wash houses for every four families, and closets in sufficient number. These are grouped together in one outside building, ventilated from the roof.

The village of Lumphinnans belongs to the Colliery of that name, and consists of continuous Rows of houses, partly of brick and partly of stone, many of which are damp in the back wall, the ground behind being undrained. Piggeries are the only outhouses. Refuse is laid in the Main Road and removed every week. The water supply is objectionable. In winter it is got from a field, and in summer it is carried away from Cowdenbeath, or taken out of any hole where it may be found.

Lochgelly, the last place where I visited in Fife, is a large town with a mixed population. Walking through it, we come on the outskirts to a mining settlement in connection with the Lochgelly Company, and consisting of new brick Rows and old stone houses, either owned or leased by the Company. The former are rooms and kitchens, with wash houses and other conveniences. They are very good houses, and being well raised from the ground, promise to be dry and comfortable when they have been occupied for some time. The old stone houses are much complained of in regards damp, and would be greatly the better for immediate repair. Water is got from a general pump, but is scarce during dry summers. There are a number of private wells in the village, and I was told that two summers ago the miners wives had to pay for every “rake” they got.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5 1876

COWDENBEATH

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

The first quarterly meeting of the members of this Society was held on Monday evening last in Gardener's Hall, Mr Wm Davidson, president in the chair. The secretary read the minutes of the quarter, and referred the members to the printed balance sheet in their hands for all the necessary information regarding the financial state of the Society. There has been drawn for goods £1,106 2s. 6d. The net profit, after paying for everything required by the rules, and setting aside 5 per cent for property and fixed stock, is £110. 12s. 3d, which gives members 2s and non-members 1s per £ on their purchases. The balance sheet was then adopted. Messrs Jas Laing and George Beveridge were elected members of committee in place of those retiring. Votes of thanks to the manager Mr Thom. Walls, Committees and Chairman, brought the meeting to a close, all being highly pleased with the first quarter's report.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19 1876

COWDENBEATH - OPENING OF A NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL

On Monday afternoon the new school erected at the village of Cowdenbeath was formally opened by the Beath Parish Board in presence of a large number of visitors, chiefly residents in the locality and neighbourhood. Among those present were the Revs. Mr T McPhail, Beath; Anderson, Cowdenbeath; Grant, Auchterderran; and Brown, Lochgelly. The Rev. Mr McPhail offered up prayer, after which Mr A Landale, chairman of the Board, said - Shortly after taking office the members of the Board found that they required premises to accommodate 400 children, but in order to meet the probable requirements of the parish it was resolved to erect a school to accommodate 550 children, and accordingly this had been done at considerable cost. He thought the ratepayers would admit that a sufficiently suitable site had been obtained for the building, and he trusted that the work to be done in the school would be carried out successfully. It was the intention of the School Board to provide a good education for the parish, and with able teachers such as had already been appointed, he expected that this would be accomplished. The subject of education was exciting considerable attention throughout the country at present, more especially the means of providing a good education. He anticipated that in the school now erected by the Beath Board, the children taught there would receive an education which would enable them to take a higher position in the various walks of life than had been attained by many of their predecessors. He had taken considerable interest in the matter of education, and was glad to see that the schools with which he was connected in the district had turned out excellent scholars, a fact which was alike creditable to the teachers and to those who had charge of the education of the district. Now, however, that the three schools in the parish were to be merged into one, he expected that very important results would follow. He urged upon the parents the great necessity of following up the work of the teacher by stimulating their children to a desire for education by instilling within them right precepts and showing a good example, all of which would exercise a powerful influence.

Addresses were afterwards delivered by the Rev. Mr McPhail, the Rev. Mr Anderson, The Rev. Mr Grant and the Rev. Mr Brown, on the various aspects of the education question. The thanks of the meeting were tendered to Mr Landale for the efforts he had made to secure the erection of a large and comfortable school for the children of the parish. Several hymns were sung by the pupils, after which the proceedings terminated.

The school has suitable accommodation for 550 children, and the expenditure connected with it has been about £4201. It is fitted with proper appliances, heating and ventilation, and is surrounded with a spacious play-ground, in the north-west corner of which a substantial and comfortable dwelling-house has been erected for the teacher.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1876

EPIDEMIC OF TYPHOID FEVER AT KINGSEAT

During the last few weeks typhoid fever has become very prevalent among the inhabitants of this village, happily however, it is generally of a mild type. It is stated that the malady made its first appearance in the village during July last year, but it was not until about a month ago that it became epidemical; altogether there have been about a hundred cases of which fourteen are now convalescent; in five instances however, the attacks have resulted fatally. The cause of the malady has been definitely assigned to contagion and local influences such as pools of foul and stagnant water in the vicinity of the dwellings. Accordingly, the attention of the authorities have been called to the subject, steps for the improvement of its sanitary condition are in progress - the sewers have now been finished, and the piggeries and ashpits removed; disinfectants have likewise been freely used in and around the houses. The statement that the inferior quantity of the water used by the inhabitants for domestic purposes was one of the causes which have originated, and was fostering the malady, having gained credence, the proprietor of the colliery caused samples of the water used in the village to be sent to Dr Stevenson Macadam for the purpose of analysis, and has since received from him the following statement: -

Analytical Laboratory, Surgeons' Hall,
Edinburgh, 25th April, 1876

I have carefully analysed two samples of water forwarded to me by the Halbeath, Cuttlehill, and Kingseat Colliery Co., and respectively labelled: - "Kingseat Well", "Muircockhall Park" and "Loch Fitty Cistern Water". In general characters these waters were free from visible contamination, practically colourless, and well-tasted. On concentration and analyses they yielded the following results, calculated in each case to the imperial gallon: -

"Kingseat"	"Loch Fitty"
"Well Water"	"Cistern Water"
Saline matter, principally	
Carbonate of lime (chalk)	
Sulphate of lime (stucco)	
and chloride of iodine	
(Common salt)	13.14 grs 14.81 grs
Organic and volatile matter	0.62 0.72
Hardness	6 deg 7 deg
Saline ammonia	0.011 0.012
Albumenoid ammonia ...	0.007 0.008

These results prove that these waters are free from pollution with sewage or other

noxious substances, and are of good average quality for domestic purposes. The proportion of saline matter in solution is not large, and the hardness is slight. I am therefore of the opinion that either or both of these waters may be confidently employed for drinking, cooking, and other domestic purposes.

(Signed) STEVENSON MACADAM, Ph.D. and C.
Lecturer on Chemistry

Mr Stuart, as Sanitary Inspector under the local Authority, and by their instructions sent half a gallon of each of the above waters to Dr Milne, Glasgow, who is the analyst for the Burgh. The following is the results: -

Chemical Laboratory,
141 West Regent Street,
Glasgow, 27th April 1876.

Report on two samples of water marked "Muir Well" and "Loch Fitty", received on 25th inst., from Mr Geo Stuart, Superintendent of Police, Dunfermline.

I have carefully examined the above samples and found as follows: -

	"Muir Well"	"Loch Fitty"	
Total solid matter ...	10.92	14.84	grains per gal
Chlorine	1.61	.74	" "
Free ammonia ...	.003	.0019	" "
Albumenoid ammonia ...	.005	.012	" "
 Total ammonia ...	.008	 .031	

REMARKS

As received by me the water from "Muir Well" was comparatively clear, while that from "Loch Fitty" was decidedly turbid, and the finely divided matter held in suspension, did not settle readily. Neither of them gave off any odour when gently heated. As regards the amount of free and Albumenoid ammonia present in the samples, the "Muir Well" water, although it cannot be classed as a pure water, is not, in my opinion, unfit for domestic use; but that from "Loch Fitty" I should be inclined to consider very suspicious. The small amount of chlorine, especially in the latter water, clearly indicates that the organic contamination is of vegetable, rather than of animal origin, and this goes to prove the absence of sewage contamination. As a water containing vegetable contamination in any quantity is equally unfit for domestic use, I should recommend as a matter of precaution, that the use of the "Loch Fitty" water be discontinued.

Both these waters are moderately hard.

The limited time at disposal, as well as the amount of water sent, precluded the possibility of an exhaustive analysis being made; but the above figures are quite

sufficient for judging as to the fitness of the waters for use.

In all cases of water analysis, at least one gallon of each sample should be sent.

JAMES M. MILNE. Ph. D.
Analytical and Consulting Chemist,
Public Analyst for Kinning Park Burgh,
and Dunfermline.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1876

VITAL STATISTICS

(Dunfermline Parish & Burgh)

The following are the statistics of the health of the parish and burgh for the six months ending 30th June last, as prepared by Dr Morris, Medical Officer of Health. Assuming the population of the landward part of the parish to be 8,633, and that of the burgh to be 15,688, the number of births during the above period was 496; of which 333 were in the burgh, and 163 in the landward part of the parish, and of those, 18 in the burgh, and 11 landward were illegitimate. The deaths were 210 in the burgh, and 80 in the landward part of the parish - 290. The birth rate was 41 per 1000 of the population per annum, and the death rate nearly 24 per 1000 per annum. This is higher than the previous half year, when it was only 18 per thousand of the population. The high rate of mortality is to be accounted for by the great number of deaths under two years of age, and also people of advanced years. In both stages of life, severity of the weather contributed much to hasten and increase the number of fatal cases - 90 of the deaths were under two years of age, and upwards of 50 were above 70 years of age. Consumption carried off 20, and other tubercular diseases upwards of 40; bronchitis, 38; pneumonia and other affections of the lungs, 30; debility of birth and of age, 52; accidents, 5; alcohol, 4; and drowning, 1. There were eleven deaths from typhoid, which assumed an epidemic form at Kingseat, but the energetic action of the local authority and medical officer was successful in checking its further progress. Dr Littlejohn of Edinburgh, at the request of the Board of Supervision, arrived here and accompanied by the members of the local authority, went over the locality, and having inspected the village, and ascertained what sanitary measures were taken, he approved of the proceedings. The disease threatened to break out at Townhill, but the same energetic action was adopted and also steps being taken to isolate the cases and promptly disinfect the dwellings where the patients were lying; happily this course had the desired effect, and the disease was stamped out. We regret to add there are a few cases of typhoid fever now in the Town, but it is hoped that the local authority's directions of at one isolating the cases and using disinfectants will be fully carried out with the same beneficial results as at Townhill.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1877

DESTRUCTION OF LOCHGELLY CO-OPERATIVE STORE.

Early on Saturday morning, last week, the building and business stock belonging to the Lochgelly Co-operative Society were almost entirely destroyed by fire. The property consisted of an oblong block of buildings, 80 feet by 82 feet, the greater part of which was two storeys in height, situated near the centre of Lochgelly, having a front and end facing the two main thoroughfares; the other side and end were bounded by back streets. The ground flat was occupied at the north end by the general grocery shop, and next to it was a store cellar and a bakehouse; immediately beyond this, but separated by a stone gable, was the drapery department in the south end of the building. On the second floor was a hall capable of seating about 200 people, and also a granary or flour store. Throughout Friday night the smell of something burning in the neighbourhood of the store excited concern, and a search was made, but nothing was discovered to excite further alarm. The smell increased, however, as the night advanced, and between two and three o'clock on Saturday morning several people became so much alarmed that the attention of Mr Hunter, the manager of the store, was called to it. On opening the shop door he encountered a volume of smoke and flames, which had evidently been smouldering for some time, burst forth. Further access was impossible without great risk, and accordingly he went round to a window in the north gable through which he attempted to reach the desk containing the society's books, but in this effort he was alike unsuccessful, and only the corners of a large number of books which had not been entirely consumed were afterwards picked up among the charred embers. Meanwhile the alarm spread rapidly, and very soon a large number of the inhabitants gathered round the building eager to give what assistance they could to subdue the flames, which unhappily had the start on them by a long way, but if possible save what could be got of the stock of goods. Messengers were dispatched to Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy for the fire engines, and by six o'clock Mr Chisolm with the engine and fire brigade from Dunfermline reached Lochgelly, but by that time the roof of the principal building had fallen in, and part of the front wall fell outwards on the street. The fire had evidently commenced in the north division of the store, the shop fittings with the grocery goods and also flour burned fiercely as the flames extended northwards. Seeing that this section of the building was lost the firemen directed their attention to the drapery shop, which was separated from the bakehouse by a stone gable. The stock of cloth having been removed shortly after the outbreak of the fire, and carried to the neighbouring houses, a plentiful supply of water was kept pouring on the gable, and also on the passage leading to the drapery shop, until the flames had done their worst in the adjoining sections. The efforts of the firemen proved successful, for the south division of the building has been preserved, and has suffered comparatively little injury. By eight o'clock the fire had burned out, not, however, before the grocery and baking departments, which were well stocked, had been consumed. A large watchdog which was kept on the premises could not be rescued in time, and so perished with his charge. The building were erected in 1875, and were occupied by the Society at Martinmas of that year, when they acquired the property for £1900; the stock in hand last week was estimated at £1700; both, however, were insured. The previous shop was a spacious apartment,

and the large hall above had just been painted and decorated. The society has on its roll nearly 250 members; it has been about twelve years in existence, and hitherto has been very prosperous. The members of the “Minto” Masonic Lodge held their meetings in the hall, their chest containing the Charter of the Lodge, the emblems, &c – valued at £20 – have all been destroyed. The “Olive” Lodge of Free Gardeners also met in the hall, and kept their paraphernalia there; it too, has shared the same fate with that belonging to their Masonic brethren. The business of the society is being conducted in the small part of the building which has been preserved from the fire, and in this limited accommodation it will probably continue until the other divisions of the property are restored.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1877

LOCHGELLY

The New Catholic Chapel

The chapel just erected for the Catholic congregation here is a neat little building (in the Gothic style of architecture), from a design by Messrs Frame & Son, architect, Dunfermline and Alloa. It is seated for 200 people, and is estimated to cost £900, and the lighting and heating arrangements are on the most improved principles. The contractors were as follows: - Mason work, Mr T Robertson, Lochgelly; Joiner work, Mr W. Alison, Dysart; Plaster work, Messrs McGregor & Anderson, Dunfermline; Slater work, Messrs McOwen & Lambert, Dunfermline; Plumber work, Messrs J&W Terrance, Kirkcaldy. Mr John Hall superintended the erection of the building.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1878.

THE DUNFERMLINE STAGE COACH.

The Dunfermline coach, bowling along with its four horses in a swinging trot, has for half a century been one of the most familiar and pleasant sights of Princes Street and the Queensferry Road. There are, perhaps, few old residents in Edinburgh who cannot recall with pleasure a summer morning's drive on its box seat, over the Dean Bridge, along the smooth wide road overlooking the Forth and Fifeshire hills, past Craigleith and Ravelston, past Craigcrook and Davidson's Mains, down the long walled-in stretches that lead to Cramond Brig, up the shady hill at the Dalmeny entrance gate, then along more straight stretches of undulating road, until, after the exciting down the Hawes Brea, the steaming horses pulled up at the door of the Inn where the Antiquary dined with Lovell more than a hundred years ago. Many, too, can remember the same journey under circumstances not so delightful – with sleet driving in their teeth, their ears tingling, their noses a hue between purple and Prussian blue, the hands nerveless and aching, with the sensation of their nether extremities as if they had been carefully packed in ice. The pleasure of a "Tentivt trot" were sometimes not without their alloy, but they were genuine pleasures after all. What could be more exhilarating than the ring of the horses' hoofs on the crisp road, the jingle of the harness, the crack of the coachman's whip, and the feeling of passing through soft air at a pace fast enough to be exciting, and yet not so fast as to become nerve-shaking and bewildering? Railway travelling, too, has its pleasures. The man who does not know what it is to feel himself whirled along at fifty miles an hour by an invisible, irresistible force, does not know one of the most thrilling human sensations. But the rush of the train is the pace that kills – the swing of the coach is the pace that revives and refreshes. The latter cheers, the former inebriates, and leaves the usual effects of inebriation in the shape of a headache, tremulousness lassitude. Not even the most inveterate 'Laudator temporis acti' can doubt which is the most convenient in the long run – but it depends entirely upon the length of the run. From London to Edinburgh give us the flying Scotchman before the "Tally-Ho's" and "Highflyers" of the mail coach days – from Edinburgh to Dunfermline there are few people who would not prefer, in the summer months at least, the rattling four-wheeler with its high-stepping team. It is not impossible that the coach which last Saturday "Paid its last Pike" may in future years be temporarily resuscitated during the summer and autumn, as have the London and Brighton and London St Albans stage coaches! Not even the road through the Surrey Hills and over the Sussex Downs is more charming for a summer day's drive than the old great North thoroughfare. To have experienced the exhilaration of a stage-coach ride is an element of culture. Without having done so one cannot appreciate the coaching episodes in "Humphrey Clinker," or "Nicholas Nickleby," or "Tom Brown's School Days", not to mention other famous works of lighter literature. It will be an evil day when the world is driven so fast that people cannot spare time, if only but once or twice in their lives, to learn the delights of a four or five hour spin on a summer forenoon with four spanking bays in the trace.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12 1880.

NOTES FROM INVERKEITHING.

Among the Royal Burghs of Scotland pre-eminent for its antiquity at least, is that of Inverkeithing, but the earliest accounts we have of it are more traditional than historic. There is an old Charter extant, granted to the burgh by King William the Lion, given at Clackmannan in 1172. The following is a copy of the translation from the Latin deed: -

“William, King of Scots, to all trusted men in the whole land getting. Know ye that I have granted, and by this my charter, have conferred for ever to the Provost and others, my burgesses of Inverkeithing, for the common use and benefit of the burgh, the land called Cruiks, on the south side of the burgh, according to right division thereof; I will therefore and ordain that they have and hold that land for the common use and benefit of the burgh, for ever, freely and peaceably as other lands belonging to that burgh, by paying yearly, on my account, half a merk of silver to the man who holds the lands of the lordship of Inverkeithing. Witness, Ada the Countess; Mathew the Archdeacon; Walter the son of Alan the Steward; Richard the Constable; Philip of Valonii, and Serlon of Edinburgh.”

There was an earlier Charter granted in 1124, by Davis I., and subsequent to the above by William the Lion; one by Alexander II., son of William, in 1214; another by Alexander III., in 1249; and a third by Robert III., in 1390. The latest, and indeed the last, is that granted by James VI., dated 4th May, 1598. It is as follows: -

“To all and sundry, the burgesses and community of Inverkeithing and others therein mentioned, together with all and sundry tolls, Customs, rights, anchorages, liberties, and all privileges of the same burgh within the bounds, meiths and marches, contained in the old infertments thereof – that is to say, from the Water of Devon to the Water of Leven, betwixt the midst of the Water of the Forth and the great stone standing forement the Mill of Allforth (Milnathort), and with all the customs, burgage, duties, slalages, and tolls, as well by sea as by land.”

By the contiguity of Inverkeithing to the ferry passages between Fife and the Lothians, being situated close to the Great North Highway through the land, and which ultimately became, as indeed it has for centuries been, the main thoroughfare or high Street of Inverkeithing, the burgh, or rather the rude hamlet, naturally rose into a place of some importance at a very early period, and gradually became a centre of interest. Several historiographers say it was of great extent. Here David I., the son of Malcolm Canmore and Queen Margaret, occasionally sojourned, and there is little doubt that the Royal lady must also have been a frequent visitor here, however short her calls, when passing from the tower at, or rather on, Dunfermline to the ferry, which is named in memory of her, and its environs with which the romantic story of her life must ever be associated, while these retain the names of Margaret’s Hope and the Queensferry.

About the beginning of the 14th century, and during the last three years of her life,

Annabella Drummond, the widowed Queen of Robert III., lived in a house still known as Retmell's Inn. There were also two monasteries, occupied respectively by the Dominican and Franciscan friars. But there is no doubt that prior to the advent of these ecclesiastics the Culdees had here a cell. Their simple and purer worship was overshadowed by the Romish clergy, who were invited northward and patronised by the Saxon Princess, sister of Edgar Atheling and Queen of Malcolm Canmore, so famous for her acts of piety and self-mortification, and also her efforts to ameliorate the condition of the people in that rude age. The last meeting of the Culdees in the district was held in Inverkeithing Church in 1250. The ancient sculptured cross is erected in front of the town house. On the summit of the pillar there is a unicorn rampant holding a shield. The shaft had been broken in the centre, but it has been restored and strongly clasped. On the sides of its capital are sundials and four crests, supposed to be those of Drummond, Douglas, the Royal Arms, and the Duke of Rothsay. A number of the Scottish nobility had houses in the town, including the Earls of Morton, Rosebery, and Dunfermline; Ferguson of Raith, and Henderson of Fordel; the representatives of the latter family were long its hereditary provosts. There are other great points of antiquarian interest in the burgh and district, but the accounts regarding them are legendary and uncertain. It is a veritable and noteworthy circumstance, however, that in the reign of James III., the court of the four burghs assembled at Inverkeithing, and drew up a set of mercantile regulations, and the Convention of Royal Burghs stately held its sittings here previous to its meetings being held in Edinburgh. In 1651 Inverkeithing was the scene of an engagement, or rather the valley on the north side of the town, between the troops of the Commonwealth, under two of Cromwell's lieutenants, and the Scotch army, when the latter were defeated with great slaughter – a disaster which further emanated in the catastrophe to the Royal troops at Worcester and the flight of Charles II. Another incident of a different character, but no less interesting because fraught with important and far-reaching consequences beyond the locality where it originated, took place here in 1749. When the patrons of the parish presented to its ecclesiastical benefice the Rev. Andrew Richardson, who had been formerly minister of Broughton, the parishioners opposed his settlement, and the majority of the Presbytery of Dunfermline refused to induct the presentee. In 1752, however, while the General Assembly were sitting, the Presbytery were ordered to proceed forthwith to Inverkeithing and induct the new incumbent, and also to report to the Supreme Court at once that they had fulfilled its injunction. Six of the nine members of the Presbytery declined obedience by absenting themselves from Inverkeithing, in consequence of which the Rev. Thomas Gillespie, minister of Carnock, who should have officiated on the occasion, was deposed from his office of the ministry for insubordination and contumacy. These proceedings of the Assembly resulted in the rise of the Relief Denomination, of which Mr Gillespie was the founder. While on these matters, we may state that the parish church building was destroyed by fire in 1582, but immediately thereafter an elegant and commodious structure was erected, which contained over a thousand sittings. In the early part of the century, when some excavations were being made near the old church, a sand stone font of hexagonal formation was discovered. It is finely ornamented with carving and armorial bearings, and it is preserved in the new edifice. Ad-joining to it is another relic of the ancient church, namely the low square tower and belfry, which is supposed to have been erected in the 11th century. The only other place of worship in the burgh is that

of the United Presbyterian congregation.

The greater part of the town is situated on a steep bank, at the base of which the waters of the Keith burn enter the bay. The population of the burgh is over 1700, and its electoral constituency is about 220. It unites with Stirling and Dunfermline in sending a representative to Parliament. The assessable property is set down at £4269, and the railway at £625. With the exception of two or three small villas, most of the buildings are old and worn; extremely plain but substantial. The practice which prevailed among the builders of an early period has here been followed by carving on a prominent part of their edifice terse mottoes, quaintly expressed according to the etymology of the age. There are two or three of these sermons in shape above the doorways of the houses. They are all excellent in their way, but some of them are familiar by their frequency. One, however, which may not be so well known is worth quoting: -

CAIR.BOT.NOT.IN.ORDINARLIE.
FOR.AL.VAS.VTHERIS.AND.VTHERIS.VIL.

BE.ECT.

The buildings of modern erection do not present many pretensions to elegance, but their elevated sites command magnificent views to the south and the east, taking in the lower reaches of the Forth, with the long range of the Lothian shore and hillsides. One spectacle particularly rivets attention, and provokes admiration, because of its romantic site and historic association. It is the “grey metropolis of the north”, situated on the heights with its spires and monuments, and the Castle rock, bounded by Corstorphine Hill and Arthur’s Seat, and backed by the still loftier Pentlands. To the north of Inverkeithing are the beautiful policies of Fordel, Otterstone, and Duloch. Although possessing several natural advantages, the prosperity of the town has been somewhat intermittent; its trade, in consequence of several causes, has been during later years subject to various fluctuations. At present a large number of the male population are employed at the Whinstone quarries in the Ferry Hills, and others in the neighbourhood, belonging chiefly to Mr Roberts, Mr Will, of Dundee, Messrs MacDonald and Messrs Brunton. From these quarries, which are mostly on the sides of the cliffs lying between the bay and Queensferry, and in some of which blasting and hewing have been carried on for more than a century, many streets of British and Continental towns have been causewayed. Much of its enduring material have also been used in the construction of piers and harbours. A few years ago there was a large trade done in shipbuilding - chiefly coasting craft and steamers - and a number of those vessels are owned and commanded by men resident in the town. A foundry was started about forty years ago, to which was added an engineering work, and thereafter the proprietors, Messrs Scott, commenced and carried on during many years, a large business in iron shipbuilding. At these works, four years since, upwards of 400 men were employed, but the business suffered from the grievous depression of late, and other exigent circumstances. After being closed for a time the foundry was partially resuscitated, and recently it passed into the hands of Messrs Anderson & co., Dundee, who are expected to take possession of the works immediately. There is still a wooden shipbuilding yard and patent slip belonging to Messrs R. & D. Ross, and

near to it a sawmill has been erected by Messrs Blleloch. There are also in the burgh Messrs Hay's tanworks for the manufacture of leather; these have been in operation here since the year 1735. And there is also a fair business done in rope and sail-making. Other industries there were which bulked more largely than they do now, such as the fire-clay works at the north end of the town, and near to it there were erected buildings for a distillery, which after being used as such for many years, the process of distillation gave place to that of oil refining. About eight years ago the works unfortunately caught fire, and the plant was destroyed. Since then some of the buildings have been occupied as stores and malt barns, but they are mostly falling into a state of dilapidation. There were in the burgh or its vicinity several flour mills, a bone mill, a magnesia manufactory, and saltworks. Damask was also woven here, as at Dunfermline, before the introduction of steam power; there are also a few of the people employed in the season at the neighbouring farms. Inverkeithing was once rich in the possession of the surrounding lands, but they were disposed of at an early period for very nominal sums, or parted with under exigent circumstances. The Lands of Duloch, once the property of the burgh, were sold to Mr J. Cant, in January 1729, for the sum of 7000 merks, Scots - equal to £414 1s 9½d sterling. Since then the estate has changed hands more than once; on the last occasion it was purchased by Mr Gibson, merchant, St Andrew's, for somewhere about £26,000. It should be mentioned, however, that some time previously the late Lord Cunningham, in whose possession it was for a lengthened time, added considerably to its amenities, and erected a large mansion-house. It is now held by the testamentary trustees of the late Mr Gibson for a charitable institution in St Andrew's. The Corporation, however, still hold the superiority over the lands of Duloch, Prathouse, Greens, and Cruiks. The revenue of the burgh, which is chiefly from feu-duties and harbour dues, amounted last year to £522. With the view of affording further facilities for the shipping, which frequent the port, a railway was constructed two years ago, from the Dunfermline and Queensferry line, which passes through Inverkeithing, down to the harbour, with suitable appliances for loading coals. These works were executed at a cost of over £2000, and about the same time the channel or fairway from the river to the pier at the head of the bay was deepened. As we have said, the locality possesses several natural advantages which fit it particularly as a shipping port. Formerly there was here a large exportation of coals from the collieries in the west of Fife. The land-locked bay, almost in front of the town, covering an area of 125 acres when the tide is full, forms a natural harbour nearly circular in outline. The inlet from the Forth at the two heads or nesses is about 100 yards in width. The attention of the engineers has been directed to the bay with the view of its further utilization, and negotiations have for some time been on foot between the Corporation and the North British Railway Company for the purpose of devising some practicable scheme that shall effectually secure the accomplishment of this object, which has been estimated would cost £70,000. It is hoped that the enterprise may eventually take shape, that the bay may be deepened, and additional piers erected. If this were successfully completed vessels could load or discharge in that capacious harbour during the most boisterous weather in perfect safety, being protected by the high ground on nearly every side. Meanwhile, however, no small impetus will be given to the indications which are apparent of returning prosperity to the old burgh, for besides those we have already noticed there are very extensive works and machinery in the course of erection on the south side of the bay by Messrs Arroll & Co., the contractors for the Forth Bridge at Queensferry.

These works are for the purpose of firing the clay, which is to be dug out of the solum of the bay, there being at least thirty millions of bricks required for the piers, &c., of the bridge. The railway over the bridge and the Ferry Hills is to be carried along the south-west side of the bay and the town on a lofty viaduct, at an easy gradient till it reaches the level on the north side of Inverkeithing, after which it parts in two directions; one branch proceeds eastward by Aberdour to Burntisland, and the other northwards to Dunfermline. Less has been done for the sanitary improvements of the burgh than was desirable, but being situated on the face of an acclivity, its drainage, which is mostly on the surface, is directed towards the bay. Inverkeithing was imperfectly supplied with water, but in 1877 arrangements were made with the authorities at Dunfermline for a branch in connection with their main from the Devon. This was completed last year at a cost of £2500, and now the inhabitants have an abundant supply of pure water, the domestic rate being 2d per £, and there is a special rate which is levied according to the purpose of the parties. For the education of its youth the people have long enjoyed the privilege of an excellent parish school, and also several adventure schools. Since the passing of the Act of 1872 the education requirements of the burgh have been under the supervision of the Parish and Burgh School Boards. In accordance with the provision of that Act, the school accommodation has been greatly extended and properly equipped, and the efficiency of all the agencies further improved. -

'Daily Review'

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1877

THE LOCHORE AND CAPLEDRAE CANNEL COAL COMPANY (LIMITED)

The annual meeting of this Company was held on Tuesday in the Freemason's Hall, Edinburgh - Mr Henry Aitken, Falkirk, chairman of directors, presiding. The print of a correspondence was submitted between the Messrs Gibson-Craig, Dalziel, and Brodies, W.S., and the directors, in which the former, on behalf of the shareholders, asked the directors consent to a committee being named to investigate into the affairs of the Company and into the management of the present Board. The directors, it was stated, had not the least objection to any investigation by shareholders interested in the Company and willing to take part in its management. The present members of the Board joined it some time after the formation of the Company owing to interests which they had in common with the other shareholders. They had given much labour gratuitously to the business of the Company.

The chairman assured the meeting that the directors sympathised with the shareholders in the present position of the Company, and he was also happy to say that the shareholders had shown, by the number of proxies sent in, that they had every confidence in the directors. Referring to the disappointments they had experienced at Capledrae by the whin dykes which had been met with among the parrot, he said they would just need to struggle over these difficulties, and if the coal was again met with, he had no doubt they would be able to pay a dividend. As to the suggested committee of inquiry, it was stated in the correspondence that the committee was proposed in no spirit of hostility to the directors, but simply that the shareholders might get information. At the same time, the directors simply said to the shareholders, "Appoint gentlemen who will come on the Board and investigate the affairs of the Company and then help us in the conduct of its affairs whatever the issue is to be". He might mention that, with the report and the correspondence before the shareholders, the directors had received proxies representing 64,443 shares. The proxies returned to Messrs Gibson-Craig represented 2505 shares. He moved the approval, of the report.

Mr Samuel L. Mason, Leith, seconded the motion.

Mr George Robertson, W.S., believed that the appointment of a committee of investigation was imperatively called for, and that something must be done if they were to save a small remnant of the money they had invested in the concern. The chairman had stated the terms on which the directors would agree to the appointment of a committee; but he (Mr Robertson) did not think it right that such a committee should be in any way mixed up with the management until at least they had reported to the shareholders. What was the position of the Company? They had had no dividend since its commencement, and they had been told that their chance of one depended on their finding some nugget of coal, independent of the flaws which had hitherto been met with. He feared that was a small chance. The share capital of this unfortunate concern was £110,000. Of that sum £50,000 was paid for the estate of Lochore, and £3700 for the lease of Capledrae, leaving £46,000 of the £100,000 paid to the vendor which they had never heard one bit about. He thought that in the history

of the Companies promotion money to the extent of £46,000 out of a capital of £110,000 was unheard of. He could not assume that it all went for promotion money, but hoped that part of it went to make the coals workable. Then they had besides that the sum of £35,000 for further opening up of mineral fields, and working plant, constructing railway, &c., so that their capital was really £145,000. From the accounts it would be observed that the Company was now indebted a total sum of £183,000. Let them look how the capital amount really stood. The loan and debenture debt was £35,950; other debts were put down at £3554, and the debt due to the bank at £34,000. Deducting £26,00 they were to receive for the railway from the North British Railway Company that would leave them with debts amounting to £47,504. Then what were the assets? - Minerals and stock, £9000; estate of Lochore. Say, £40,000; debts due to company, £3000 - making their total assets £52,000. Deducting their liabilities from that, there remained £4500 to meet a subscribed capital of £110,000. That was a lamentable state of affairs, and one that surely called for independent inquiry. Mr Robertson next went into the revenue account, and contended that £4200 was a large amount of wood to sell off 130 acres in five years, and that such management must deteriorate the value of the estate. He also objected to the sum put down under foresters wages and furnishings (£276); and called attention to the amount entered under the heading "allowance to secretary, auditors, Clerks, &c., £290," said he thought that when no dividend was being paid, some consideration should be had for the shareholders in such matters. When they were almost a bankrupt company, was it necessary, he asked, that they should have such a staff of managers, foresters, and secretaries as they had? In all the circumstances he thought the section of shareholders with whom he was acting were justified in demanding an independent investigation. He moved the appointment of such a committee.

Mr J.A. Robertson, C.A., seconded the motion.

Mr John MacKay suggested that as there was so little difference between the directors and the section of the shareholders who were moving in this matter, the nominees of the latter party might, to save any apparent antagonism, consent to act as directors after the investigation had been made.

The chairman said the difficulty was that these gentlemen were the nominees of one section of the shareholders. The directors wished the whole Company to have a voice in the choice. With that view, he was prepared to submit was this: - "That it is expedient the Board, which consists of three directors, should now be increased to seven; and that this meeting now adjourn till the 5th November next for the purpose of electing these additional directors, the names of suitable persons to be sent to the secretary three days before the meeting; that the new members of the Board shall investigate the affairs of the Company, and make a report to the shareholders".

Mr John MacKay said he should second the resolution, as nothing could be fairer than

the proposal it contained.

Mr George Robertson intimated that he should have withdrawn his amendment if he could have done so without being committed to the approval of the report.

The original motion and amendment were then put to the meeting, when the latter was negatived by 17 to 13 votes. The report was therefore adopted. A director and auditors having been appointed, the motion for adjournment was put and carried unanimously. A vote of thanks to the chairman, on the motion of Mr G.D. Laurie, terminated the proceedings.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1877

LOCHORE AND CAPLEDRAE CANNEL COAL COMPANY

An adjourned meeting of the shareholders of the company was held on Monday at noon, in the Freemason's Hall, Edinburgh - Mr Henry Aitken, Falkirk, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was in terms of a resolution come to at the annual general meeting held on the 16th ult, to appoint four new directors, so as to increase the Board from three to seven members, and with a view to an investigation into the affairs of the company and report to the shareholders. The chairman submitted on behalf of the Board of directors, that the following gentlemen be elected: - George Robertson, W.S., Edinburgh; James Thornton, Coalmaster, Crofthead; Alexander Nimmo, Westbank, Falkirk, and James McKelvie, Coal Merchant, Haymarket. Mr Mackay, chemist, George Street, in a communication to the secretary, recommended the names of James Laurie, 29 Royal Terrace; George Robertson, 17 Royal Circus; R. Scot-Skirving, Drummond Place; and John Walker, 1 Polworth Terrace. Mr Scot-Skirving gave it as his opinion that Mr Robertson would not take office along with the gentlemen proposed because his influence would simply be swamped by the directors own men. He himself declined to act as a director, simply because he knew nothing of mines or coal mining, and also because for five months of the year he was out of Edinburgh, and could not attend to the interests of the shareholders. It was commonly said outside, he remarked, that the reason why the directors had taken off John Walkers name and put on his own (Mr Skirving's) instead was that Mr Walker was too useful a man, and would take care that the shareholders knew all about the affairs of the company. Mr Mackay, chemist, George Street, said that since the last meeting he had heard more about this Lochore Company than ever he heard before, although he had been a member since its commencement. He hoped that the results of the meeting would be satisfactory to the shareholders. He therefore proposed that with a view to the elucidation of those things and with a view to a settlement of what he was inclined to look upon as so many wild rumours, the gentlemen he had already named be elected as the new directors. The motion was seconded by Mr Robert Robertson. A somewhat warm discussion ensued between the directors on the one side and a number of the shareholders on the other. Mr Chas Blair, said that if they did not give them the four there was not the slightest use of going forward one single step. If they could not get an investigation in one way they would see whether they could get it in another. Mr Walker contended that as the shareholders beside the directorate had £25,000 of stock represented by proxies, they ought to have one-third of the direction. If the directors were going to do what they professed as a thorough investigation, it should not be done in a stingy way. If they did not give a fair representation it was only barking the investigation - that was the simple English of it. Both parties being determined to press their nominees, a private conference between representatives of each was held, on the result of which Mr Mackay withdrew his motion, and proposed only two names - Mr James Laurie and Mr George Robertson, this being seconded by Mr Paul, and carried unanimously. The chairman then proposed two - Mr James Thornton and Mr Alexander Nimmo - these being carried against an amendment that Mr Walker and Mr Scot-Skirving be elected. The business was concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman, proposed by Mr Scot-Skirving who remarked that he did

not know whether the chairman conducted the business well or ill, but he was always a pleasant gentleman in the chair - not an easy matter in these hard times. He hoped the Company would see better days by-and-bye.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1878

THE LOCHORE AND CAPLEDRAE CANNEL COAL COMPANY (LIMITED)

(Report of Investigation Committee)

At the annual meeting of this Company held in October last it was, as may be remembered, resolved to increase the membership of the Board of directors from three to seven, and that after the new members of the Board had investigated into the affairs of the Company a report should be made to the shareholders. At a subsequent meeting of the Company four new directors were accordingly elected, and by them a report has now been prepared. This report states: -

"First - With regard to the Formation of the Company and Capital - The prospectus, which was issued to the public in 1872, bears that 'the only agreement made by the Company is an good deal by volcanic eruptions. On the theory that the above hills were up raised since the period of the coal formation, the regular lying seams would be violently torn asunder, and mixed with a combination of various metals or "trap-dykes." In fact the surface itself in the district indicates clearly that there has been a "whin battle" at some period or another, as large boulders crop out amongst the soil in every field. The coalfields of Scotland are all more or less traversed by these faults or dykes, which in the most cases gives evidence of foreign matter having been imported into the coal measures, and forming separations by volcanic agency consisting of greenstone of greenstone porphyry. In almost every instance dykes destroy the coal in point of contact, and masses of trap intercept the minerals, which are burnt and wasted, the coal at a considerable distance being inferior in quality. They, as a rule, run parallel to each other, and are frequently of great extent, the strata being tilted up so much that the coal may be found at the surface on the one side of the "fault", while on the other it may be 100 yards in depth - thus the continuity of the seam at Capledrae is very much broken, and has made the getting of a regular lying seam of coal a work of great difficulty. In fact, it is questionable as yet whether the desired "coal haven" may be reached, as the workmen after a period of over three years are still digging into stone, exploring the unknown regions. A depth of fully 200 fathoms has now been pierced, which at the angle of 45 degrees means that the men are working at a perpendicular depth of 400 yards. Just imagine for a moment the dangers the men at the foot of this great hill must have while the hutches of rubbish are being raised by the engine to the surface, as the rope may break or a large fall of stones may hurl from the top to the bottom. Such is the position of the men who are engaged in mines, and parties who have such dangers to contend with ought to be remunerated handsomely. Still this in the meantime is not the case, and there is just now little hope of a soon revival. The operations at this Capledrae incline have been under the directorship of Mr H. Aitken, managing director for the Company, while the more immediate superintendence has been conducted by Mr John Ferguson, manager of works. Both men seem to understand their work thoroughly, and Mr Aitken, who is also a mining engineer, has had large colliery experience. His ability has been very much tried in the Capledrae subject, however; and during the tedious three years that the search for coal has been carried on with so much uncertainty, several meeting of

the shareholders and Board of directors have taken place. From the reports of these meetings it is apparent that "fate" has been against the Company from their very commencement, and the shares have dwindled beautifully down to a merely nominal sum. To quote from Mr G. Robertson, W.S., at a meeting of the directors in October last, he stated, "that their debts amounted to £47,504, and their assets to £52,000. Deducting their liabilities from that there remained £4500 to meet a subscribed capital of £100,000. In fact, he said the Company was almost bankrupt." We only mention this to show that the shareholders, if they should spend all, are determined to prove the minerals - Some of the other directors have been quite outspoken; and one could almost have imagined that the concern, under such adverse circumstances as we have spoken of, would, ere this, have been "played out." Mr Aitken, notwithstanding, the obstacles raised by the other directors, combined with the more serious obstacles daily cropping up at the mines, has always, and even yet, holds out a ray of hope that success will attend their efforts, and that they will yet be able to pay a dividend. He is certainly a gentleman in every sense of the word - enterprising and persevering - possessed of a "not-to-be-beat" spirit. From the Journal of the 10th inst. we notice that the Company were advertising for 30 additional hands, which is an indication that things are looking up. We hear this week that the men working in the mine are now getting into more regular formed strata, and that they are in the stone which is supposed to immediately overly the coal. It is to be hoped, now that so much money has been laid out, that a good remunerative seam will be found, and that the directors of the Company will even yet, at this late hour, have the pleasure of declaring a dividend to the shareholders. At present a good many of the houses are empty, and as they are situated in a rural (although a lovely) district, things have altogether a dull and deserted appearance. If the coal is found, however, there is no doubt but a large number of the men who left the colliery about two years ago will again return, and will unveil the "hidden treasure," with a profit, we trust, to all concerned. In concluding the present article, perhaps the following explanation as to what cannel or parrot coal is composed of may be of interest to our readers: - Cannel coal, which is applied to gas illumination, was first introduced into this country in 1792, and practically applied in 1805 into the workshops of Messrs Boulton & Watt, at Sohonear, Birmingham. Illuminating gas is chiefly composed of carburetted hydrogen - the density being 0.6 of that of air. The best bituminous coal yields something like 8000 cubic feet of gas per ton, while the quantity obtained from cannel coal is from 10,000 to 12,000 cubic feet per ton. Gas is drawn from the coal by the process of dry distillation.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1878.

MINING AT CAPLEDRAE AND LOCHORE.

Gas Coal

The mines of Capledrae and Lochore have been known for a good period of years to be productive of gas coal of a very fine quality, notwithstanding that the strata in the district, in many instances, is somewhat irregular. In the year 1872 (the beginning of the coal famine period) the works changed hands – a number of rather wealthy gentlemen having formed themselves into what is known as the Lochore and Capledrae Cannel Coal Company. A prospectus being issued at a very auspicious time, £110,000 in share capital was raised. The Company at once negotiated with Lady Scott, proprietrix of Lochore grounds, and Mr R.B. Symington, Dunfermline, proprietor of some of the works, for the buying of Lochore estate. The leases of the minerals, with the whole machinery, plant, and operations. The lands of Lochore were bought at a cost of £50,000, and leases of nearly all the minerals in the district were affected – the stipulated agreement for the whole transaction, including all charges for the formation of the Company being £100,000. Numerous mines were at once sunk in what was considered to be the most advantageous places, the cost of which, together with the workmen's houses, was about £37,000. A railway branch was also conducted into the collieries from Kelty station at a cost of £21,549 17s 8d, the N.B. Railway Company having defrayed the most of the expenses for such. Operations had not proceeded far, however, in the Lochore mines, when numerous obstructions were met with, the coal being thin and much distorted. An unusual quantity of water had also to be contended with, which could only be brought to the surface by heavy pumping machinery. This latter fact need not be wondered at, seeing that the mines are all situated near the base of Benarty Hill, consequently they could only form tanks as it were, for the many springs with which the hill is surrounded. About 18 months ago, the lower section of what is known as the Lochore Mines became entirely flooded with water, and work there from that time to the present has been abandoned, the water having now reached the mouth of the shafts. The fittings of the pits are nearly all standing yet, and are, of course, deteriorating in value every day, the machinery being rusty, while the other fittings are crumbling down. Such a state of matters cannot but present a disheartening appearance to those who are concerned in the works, and people who are passing are apt to infer that the capital has been laid out in a wrong quarter. When the Company was formed they obtained a lease of the minerals of Capledrae, the buying of the whole of the plant at the old mine there being included in the £100,000 already spoken of. To prove the mineral, it was thought advisable that before sinking a shaft, boring should be resorted to, and accordingly an English Company was engaged, who proved the strata with a vertical diamond drill bore worked with steam. The coal was reached at a depth of 100 fathoms, was found to be of good workable thickness, and considered a pretty fair quality. One very formidable barrier in the way of sinking a shaft was the fact that from the bore it was found that 30 fathoms of whin rock had to be sunk through. To pierce a perpendicular shaft in such a hard substance seemed to be considered impracticable at that time, although we believe it would not be such a difficulty now, seeing that dynamite as a

blasting material has become so popular. The manager of the Company rather thought it advisable to start an incline in 1874 from the surface, running with the vein of coal at an angle of 45 degrees, or to use a hackneyed mining phrase – halfedge. Of course this incline was intended from the first to be run until the basin of the coal was reached, at which point it was expected that the “coveted treasure” would rise on every side, thus making coals easy to get.

In running this incline the vein of the coal has been often lost, the workmen being intercepted with boulders of whin which throw them entirely out of the coal position. Seeing that Benarty and the Lomonds are situated in close proximity to the mines, the strata may have been disturbed a good deal by volcanic eruptions. On the theory that the above hills were raised since the period of the coal formation, the regular lying seams would be violently torn asunder, and mixed with a combination of various metals or “trap-dykes”. In fact, the surface itself in the district indicates clearly that there has been a “whin battle” at some period or another, as large boulders crop out amongst the soil in every field. The coalfields of Scotland are all more or less traversed by these faults or dykes, which in most cases gives evidence of foreign matter having been imported into the coal measures, and forming separations by volcanic agency consisting of greenstone porphyry. In almost every instance, dykes destroy the coal in point of contact, and masses of trap intercept the minerals, which are burnt and wasted, the coal at a considerable distance being inferior in quality. They, as a rule, run parallel to each other, and are frequently of great extent, the strata being tilted up so much that the coal may be found at the surface on one side of the “fault”, while on the other it may be 100 yards in depth – thus the continuity of the seam at Capledrae is very much broken, and has made the getting of a regular lying seam of coal a work of great difficulty. In fact, it is questionable as yet whether the desired “coal haven” may be reached, as the workmen after a period of over three years are still digging into stone, exploring the unknown regions. A depth of fully 200 fathoms has now been pierced, which at an angle of 45 degrees means that the men are working at a perpendicular depth of 400 yards. Just imagine for a moment the dangers the men at the foot of this great hill must have while the hatches of rubbish are being raised by the engine to the surface, as the rope may break or a large fall of stone may hurl from the top to the bottom. Such is the position of the men who are engaged in mines, and parties who have such dangers to contend with ought to be remunerated handsomely. Still, this in the meantime, is not the case, and there is just now little hope of a soon revival. The operations at this Capledrae incline have been under the directorship of Mr H. Aitken, managing director for the Company, while the more immediate superintendence has been conducted by Mr John Ferguson, manager of works. Both men seem to understand their work thoroughly, and Mr Aitken, who is also a mining engineer, has had large colliery experience. His ability has been very much tried in the Capledrae subject, however; and during the tedious three years that the search for coal has been carried on with so much uncertainty, several meetings of the shareholders and Board of Directors have taken place. From the reports of these meetings it is apparent that “fate” has been against the Company from their very commencement, and the shares have dwindled beautifully down to a merely nominal sum. To quote from Mr G. Robertson, W.S., at a meeting of the directors in October last, he stated, “that their debts amounted to £47,504, and their assets to £52,000. Deducting their liabilities from that there remained £4500 to meet a subscribed capital

of £100,000. In fact, he said, the Company was almost bankrupt.” We only mention this to show that the shareholders, if they could spend all, are determined to prove the minerals – Some of the directors have been quite outspoken; and one could almost have imagined that the concern, under such adverse circumstances as we have spoken of, would, ere this, have been “played out”. Mr Aitken, notwithstanding the obstacles raised by the other directors, combined with the more serious obstacles daily cropping up at the mines, has always, and even yet, holds out a ray of hope that success will attend their efforts, and that they will yet be able to pay a dividend. He is certainly a gentleman in every sense of the word – enterprising, persevering – possessed of a “not-to-be-beat” spirit. From the “Journal” of the 10th inst. We notice that the Company were advertising for 30 additional hands, which is an indication that things are looking up. We hear this week that the men working in the mine are now getting into more regular formed strata, and that they are in the stone which is supposed to immediately overlay the coal. It is to be hoped, now that so much money has been laid out, that a good remunerative seam will be found, and that the directors of the Company will even yet, at this late hour, have the pleasure of declaring a dividend to the shareholders. At present a good many of the houses are empty, and as they are situated in a rural (although lovely) district, things have altogether a dull and deserted appearance. If the coal is found, however, there is no doubt but a large number of the men who left the colliery about two years ago will again return, and will unveil the “hidden treasure”, with a profit, we trust, to all concerned. In concluding the present article, perhaps the following explanation as to what cannel or parrot coal is composed of may be of interest to our readers: - Cannel coal, which is applied to gas illumination, was first introduced into this country in 1792, and practically applied in 1805 into the workshops of Messrs Boulton & Watt, at Sohonear, Birmingham. Illuminating gas is chiefly composed of carburetted hydrogen – the density being 0.6 of that of air. The best bituminous coal yields something like 8000 cubic feet of gas per ton, while the quantity obtained from cannel coal is from 10,000 to 12,000 cubic feet per ton. Gas is drawn from the coal by the process of dry distillation.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1878

LOCHORE AND CAPLEDRAE CANNEL COAL COMPANY (LIMITED)

The report of the directors of this Company, to be submitted to the annual general meeting of the shareholders in Edinburgh on 29th inst., has been issued. It states that the balance at the debit of profit and loss account at the commencement of the financial year was £2366 19s 9d. "The balance at its close was £2755 19s 11d. During the year there has been received on account of capital £5000, of which £3809 18s 10d has been spent in sinking and opening the mines to the Diamond Drill Bore Field, further referred to below. The cost of the Lochore line of railway was taken over by the North British railway Company as at November 1878, but the discount on the railway bills, up to the date on which they fell due, has been charged against the financial year now ending. It amounts to £1250 14s 4d. No charge for this source will fall on the Company in future. The operations during the year have been as follows: - LOCHORE - Owing to the state of the Company's funds and of the parrot coal market, operations have been restricted on the Lochore estate to working a little parrot from above the level of the water, which was done with fair profit. OLD MINE, CAPLEDRAE - The workings of this mine have lately improved, and a small output is being got. To all appearance there is a considerable quantity of coal to come still. The cross-cut mine, mentioned in last years report, found the coal of excellent quality, but disturbed by hitches and small wants. The workings have been retarded owing to ventilation being insufficient for the removal of the 'damp' from the extended workings. For some considerable time a mine has been in progress which, when completed, as it will be shortly, will communicate with the new mine and render the ventilation all that can be desired. The coal may then be opened up with greater freedom. It is pretty clear that there are a considerable number of acres of the parrot coal in this portion of the field. NEW MINE, CAPLEDRAE - The object of this is mainly to open out and work the Diamond Drill Field. The sinking of the mine has been continued, until it has reached a depth of over 90 fathoms, measuring vertically. From the bottom of the dook, mines have been driven. Within a few feet of where it was expected the parrot should have been got, a bore was put down, and the coal found in excellent thickness and quality. On the data furnished by the bore it was thought that if the mine was continued for 20 or 30 feet the parrot would be reached in such a way as to command an output. The position was so reached, and after passing through a want the coal has been found, and is now being opened up. A back mine has also been driven to the north, and the parrot coal found there also of good quality and thickness. A considerable quantity of coal will now be got from these two points. The accounts show that even the small quantity of coal worked has yielded profit nearly equal to all charges, depreciation, and interests. This gives some idea of the value of the undertaking should the cannel, which has now been got by the new mine in the Diamond Drill Field, turn out to be only moderately troubled. There is a very large field there to work upon. The Company's available capital for new works is

almost exhausted. If the Diamond Drill Field, upon the operations in which the success of the Company so largely depends, is to be fairly tried, it will be necessary to make provision for some further expenditure on capital account, and to carry on an extended business. The directors, therefore, consider it necessary that a small amount of additional capital be raised to complete the opening up of the Diamond Bore Field, and they recommend that a preference stock should be created and issued to the shareholders at such a rate of interest, and on such conditions, as may lead to its acceptance. A resolution will be submitted to the general meeting accordingly. The directors suggest that the amount to be raised be £5000, in shares of £5 each, having right from the profits of each year to a preferential dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and sharing with the other stock of the Company any higher profits that may be earned; or that this sum be raised by debenture stock, entitling the holder to an annual payment of £10 for each £100 advanced to the Company. In calling the meeting, the directors have done so in terms admitting of the shareholders attaching to the new shares or debenture stock any conditions and rights they deem expedient, Instructions have been given to the manager of Lochore to allow inspection of the mines and plans by shareholders interested in the undertaking. Notice should be given of any intended visit, so as not to put the manager to undue trouble. On application to the chairman (Mr Aitken), an order for inspection will be given. The director to retire at this time is Mr Mason. He is eligible for re-election. The auditors, Messrs McAndrew & Blair, C.A., are also eligible for re-election.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1878

THE DUNFERMLINE STAGE COACH

The Dunfermline coach, bowling along with its four horses in a swinging trot, has for half a century been one of the most familiar and pleasant sights of Princess Street and the Queensferry Road. There are, perhaps, few old residents in Edinburgh who cannot recall with pleasure a summer morning's drive on its box seat, over the Dean Bridge, along the smooth wide road overlooking the Forth and the Fifeshire hills, past Craigleith and Ravelston, past Craigcrook and Davidson's Mains, down the long walled-in stretches that lead to Cramond Brig, up the shady hill at the Dalmeny entrance gate, then along more straight stretches of undulating road, until, after an exciting down the Hawes brae, the steaming horses pulled up at the door of the Inn where the Antiquary dined with Lovell more than a hundred years ago. Many, too, can remember the same journey under circumstances not so delightful - with sleet driving in their teeth, their ears tingling, their nose of a hue between purple and Prussian blue, their hands nerveless and aching, and with a sensation of their nether extremities as if they had been carefully packed in ice. The pleasures of a "Tantivt trot" were sometimes not without their alloy, but they were genuine pleasures after all. What could be more exhilarating than the ring of the horses' hoofs on the crisp road, the jingle of the harness, the crack of the coachman's whip, and the feeling of passing through the soft air at a pace fast enough to be exciting, and yet not so fast as to become nerve-shaking and bewildering? Railway travelling, too, has its pleasures. The man who does not know what it is to feel himself whirled along at fifty miles an hour by an invisible, irresistible force, does not know one of the most thrilling human sensations. But the rush of the train is the pace that kills - the swing of the coach is the pace that revives and refreshes. The latter cheers, the former inebriates, and leaves the usual effects of inebriation in the shape of a headache, tremulousness lassitude. Not even the most inveterate 'Laudator temporis acti' can doubt which is the most convenient in the long run - but it depends entirely upon the length of the run. From London to Edinburgh give us the Flying Scotchman before the "Tally-Ho's" and "Highflyers" of the mail coach days - from Edinburgh to Dunfermline there are few people who would not prefer, in the summer months at least, the rattling four-wheeler with its high-stepping team. It is not possible that the coach which last Saturday "Paid its last pike" may in future years be temporarily resuscitated during the summer and autumn, as have the London and Brighton and London and St Albans stage coaches! Not even the road through the Surrey Hills and over the Sussex Downs is more charming for a summer day's drive than the old Great North thoroughfare. To have experienced the exhilaration of a stage-coach ride is an essential element of culture. Without having done so one cannot appreciate the coaching episodes in "Humphrey Clinker," or "Pickwick," or "Nicholas Nickleby", or "Tom Brown's School-days," not to mention other famous works of lighter literature. It will be an evil day when the world is driven so fast that people cannot spare time, if it be only once or twice in their lives, to learn the delights of a four or five hour spin on a summer forenoon with four spanking bays in the traces.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1878

EXTENSIVE MINING AT COWDENBEATH

THE DEEPEST SHAFT IN THE COUNTY OF FIFE

The Cowdenbeath Coal Company have for some time prosecuted a sinking operation At their No 1 Pit, with a view of finding what is known in the coal world as the Dunfermline Splint or the lowest possible seams. This seam has just been reached at a depth of nearly 140 fathoms, and as far as we can learn, this is the deepest shaft at present working in the County. In sinking, the men have passed through no fewer than twelve seams of coal, six of those at least being of a good workable thickness, and of a quality which will be sure to find a ready sale in the market. It being the basin of the coalfield, the strata is very regular, and is not displaced in any way by faults or dykes. The shaft is 17 ft by 10 ft, and will be worked on the double cup system - two hutches being raised to the surface every winding. In the meantime the material is brought to the bank by a temporary engine, but the output is expected to be so great when the field is developed that it will give place to a handsome coupled engine, which will be capable of raising to the surface no less than 500 tons per day of eight hours. The cylinders and couplings in connection with the drum will be on the most approved principles, and it is affirmed that nothing will be wanting which will impart winding speed to the concern, so as to unearth a great quantity of coal. The water is forced to the surface by perhaps one of the most powerful Cornish direct working engines in Scotland - it has an 80 inch cylinder, weighing 22 tons. The pumping gear is attached to a ponderous beam, which from its great weight could only have been placed into position with difficulty. The large machine was fitted up by Messrs Barclay & Son, engineers, Kilmarnock, these gentlemen being well known in the district for supplying the various engineering fittings connected with a colliery. The pumps are 24 inches in diameter, and the water is raised by a lifting set to a landing box or store 15 fathoms up the shaft; from thence it is forced to the surface by three rams or plungers which work in conjunction with each other at distances of 50, 40, and 30 fathoms. The engine has an eight feet stroke, and raises about seven tons of water per minute. It was necessary that a powerful pumping machine, such as this, should be erected at the pit, as it is sunk to a lower level than any of the mines in the colliery, consequently a "sump" forms a receptacle for the greatest share of the water in the district, which of course, always finds its lowest level, notwithstanding that it may be separated from this point by many yards of stone. A heavy steam-crane which is used for lowering and raising the pumping material is fitted with a rope 2½ inches in diameter, guaranteed to suspend 100 tons. The steam is supplied for the many engines by six egg-end boilers, and these are filled with water by a strong "donkey pump". A wood partition which is generally termed a mid wall, divides the shaft from top to bottom, into "upcast" and "downcast". The current of air is considerably increased in the mine by a rarefying fan, known as the Siamese Twin ventilation engine. This fan is placed on top of the upcast shaft and will draw the air through the

workings, (although very extensive) with great velocity. It might perhaps be necessary for us to explain why fans and furnaces are of paramount importance in connection with the ventilation of mines. The pressure of the atmosphere on the surface; according to the Torricellian principle, is 15 lbs. to the square inch. If we dig two holes, separated a few yards from each other, and make direct communication between them at the bottom, there would be 15 lbs. of pressure at the top of both holes. As a consequence no air would descend, and it would only bring in the balance like a pair of scales with a pound weight at each end. By creating a fan or furnace in the upcast shaft, however, the rapidity of the air current is greatly increased. The wasted air is thus drawn to the surface, and as nature abhors a vacuum, the space left by the withdrawal of this impure air is readily filled up by the downcast shaft. The operations have been under the general supervision of Mr H. Mungall, managing partner, while Mr W. Moodie, manager of works, is immediate superintendent. Both gentlemen have had extensive experience in mining, and are, it is evident, capable of conducting coal works to a very successful issue. The *modus operandi* they, along with the workmen, have pursued while sinking has been all that could be desired, seeing that 280 yards of stone have been pierced without a single accident taking place. This is very gratifying, but still it is singular, as the dangers connected with "sinking" are nearly tenfold more than those usually encountered in ordinary mining operations; indeed coal is seldom reached without some fatal occurrences.

Since Mr Mungall became connected with the Cowdenbeath Coal Company, nine years ago the works have been greatly improved, and a large number of very substantial workmen's houses have been erected not only by the employer, but by the more industrious of the men who took advantage of the good wage period. The houses are high in the ceiling, airy, and well lighted, and will compare favourably with the houses of any mining village in Scotland. They certainly present a contrast beside the dilapidated "buts and bens" which were built for miners only quarter of a century ago, when it seems to have been the rule to construct the doorways only high enough to permit persons to enter bareheaded. A good idea of the growth of the village may be gained from the statement made by an old residenter last week. He said - "Things have made a rapid change here. Cowdenbeath has of late grown quite a 'toon, and for size part has as muckle richt to be ca'ed a burgh as Lochgelly". If trade would only improve, the development of this new coal field would give an impetus to the trade of the district. In the months of July and August a slight briskness was sensibly felt throughout the county. During the last two weeks, however, things have assumed a more serious form - the working days have been less; and it would almost seem as if the miners had not yet reached their worst. The suspension of labour at Fordell pits has cast quite a gloom over the district, and already a large number of men have been seeking work elsewhere.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1878

NOTES ON FIFE

A correspondent of the Daily Review writes: - Aberdour is wearying for the summer season, which brings so much Edinburgh grist to the mill. This summer resort is becoming more popular every year, and this is not surprising. Its situation is magnificent; its sylvan attractions are unequalled; and its proximity to the Scotch metropolis renders it an advantageous residence to people who are unable to leave business for any length of time. In Aberdour, as in Burntisland, Kinghorn, and other coast towns further east, preparations will soon be made for the visitors; for though this wintry weather might be supposed to drive all thought of summer holidays out of peoples heads, it is a fact that the letting has already commenced, and that many houses have been engaged. It is some comfort to know, in these times of dull trade and empty pockets, that the rents are not to be higher than they were last year. I often wonder that some of your neobobs in Edinburgh do not give Limekilns and Torryburn and Culross a trial, They are not so easily got at as Burntisland, but they offer advantages for those wishing to spend a quiet month which few watering places posses. The district is beautifully wooded, and at Torryburn there is a fine large open green skirting the shore, but I must confess - and this is the only fault - the beach is not pretty when the tide is back. Limekilns is capitally protected, and at little expense one of the finest promenades to be found in any village on the Fife coast might be formed. In this undertaking Dunfermline people, who seem to be burdened with superfluous cash, might bear a share. And why should they not have a wooden pier running east from Capernaum, and attract crowds of working people every Saturday afternoon by instrumental performances and means of recreation? Then a modern name might be given to Limekilns. Certainly Dunfermline should have its "little Brighton," and I think Limekilns is in many respects more adaptable than Queensferry, even though the latter has all the advantages of direct railway communication.

Though the latter has all the advantages of direct railway communication.

The Stirling Burgh is a safe seat. Dunfermline and adjoining burghs have a big share in this representation, and in them, Mr Campbell-Bannerman is as popular, and more so, if that were possible, than he is even in the returning burgh. He is a most faithful member, and liberal in more respects than in his politics. His relations with his constituents are of the most friendly character, and his personal acts of kindness, as much as his manly, straight-forward, and intelligent political career, have year by year added to his reputation. There are a few Tories in Dunfermline - three genuine specimens and a few young half-and-half's - but they are helpless, and it so happens that personally they are almost as great admirers of Mr Campbell-Bannerman as his staunchest political supporters. I am safe, therefore, in assuring you there will be no attempt to alter the representation here. The disestablishment question is one which Mr Campbell-Bannerman has never hesitated to speak with the utmost frankness. He is a Churchman, but he is anxious for a better field for the Church, and for even handed justice to all sections of Presbyterians.

The state of trade in our county is causing great concern. The surprise is that many of our manufacturers in Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline, and other places have held out so well. They must have been well prepared for the dullness, for many of them, in addition to being bitten by "foreign" failures, have notoriously been working at a loss for a considerable time. The present is a slow season in the linen trade, and the prevailing lack of activity would not occasion such dread were there good substantial hopes for an early revival. But in the meantime we have not these. Still some of our most enterprising manufacturers are hopeful, if our political relations were more satisfactory, that indirectly the American connection would become more healthy, orders would flow in abundantly, and all would be busily and profitably employed, as they were four or five years ago.

Rev. Wm. Horne, M.A., Dundee, who was appointed last week by the University Court of St Andrew's examiner in mental philosophy for graduation in arts, is a Fifer - a native of Dunfermline. He is one of the most scholarly of the young theologians in Scotland, and it is solely owing to his personal modesty he is so little known. I have heard it said he is over-educated - educated to death - but this is the sheerest nonsense. He is far forward in the race of theological thought, certainly, though he does not err so much in this respect as many of his contemporaries do in lagging behind. Mr Horne is a student of St Andrew's, and while pursuing his course in that educational centre, he held some of the most coveted bursaries, one of which - of £100 value per annum, for three years - was open to students of all Scottish universities. He also spent some time in Germany, and attended the old University of Heidelberg. Less than two years ago, and before he accepted the pastorate of the Congregational Church of which he is at present minister, Mr Horne published a large volume, entitled "Reason and Revelation," to which the critics devoted much and careful attention. What we describe in Fife as the "depth" of the work may possibly stand in the way of its general popularity, but all who have read it, and are able to appreciate its meaning, admit the masterly style in which the subject is treated.

If I did not feel that I have already far exceeded the limit of space you allowed me, I should like to furnish your readers with an account of a remarkable exodus of railway shareholders from the "auld grey toun" on Friday morning. But perhaps this may stand for another week. I have also much that is interesting to Fife people to tell about the approaching great bazaar. Never before, I am sure, were such elaborate arrangements made for a fancy fair in the provinces. But to another subject. If I were giving to betting, which I am not, I would not risk a sixpence on the possibility of all the Nonconformists in the town assembling in the High Street, on the morning of Tuesday next, and making humble obeisance before the "visible blue". For by that time something terrible will have happened. The Town Council, which has for years, has been true as steel in its nonconformist attitude, so far as relations with Churchism are concerned, is to be asked to repent of its evil ways, and vote for the election of a commissioner to the General Assembly. The gentleman who has given notice on the motion on the subject is Councillor Nicol - a man not easily dissuaded from his purpose. I hope I am misinformed, but a little bird has whispered that the Peoples Hatter is to be left all forlorn in the Council Chambers when he brings forward his proposal. But even if he is to be deserted by the other Churchmen in the Corporation, I hope he will not allow his new-born ecclesiastical zeal to be dampened. For Mr

Nicol is in this case in the fortunate position of being able to crack his finger and his thumb in the nose of the Provost and all the bench of baliedom, as, it is understood, a mere nomination, even though no seconder is found, is sufficient in the eyes of the General Assembly to entitle the Council to a seat at a respectful distance from the Lord High Commissioners and his pages.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1878

ACCIDENTS SINCE 1850

The following is a list of the more important accidents in mines from the year 1850: -

Year	Name of Place	No. of Lives Lost
1850	Airdrie, Lanarkshire	19
1851	Nitshill, near Paisley	61
1857	Lundhill, near Barnsley	189
1858	Bardsley	52
"	Duffryn, near Newport	20
"	Tyldesley, near Manchester	52
1859	Chain Collier, near Neath	26
1860	Burradon, near Killingworth	76
"	Risca, near Newport	145
"	Hetton Mine, Northumberland	22
1861	Claycross Mines, Derbyshire	21
"	Lalle Coal Mines, France	85
1862	Gethin Mine, Merthyr-Tydvill, S. Wales	47
"	Walker, near Newcastle	15
"	Hartley	202
"	Edmund's Main, near Barnsley	60
1863	Coxbridge, near Newcastle	13
"	Margam, South Wales	38
"	Moestig, South Wales	14
1865	Claycross Mines, Derbyshire	6
"	New Redwelty Pit, near Trededgar	24
"	Gethin Mine, Merthyr-Tydvill	30
1866	Highbrook Colliery, near Wigan, Lancashire	30
"	Duckinfield, near Ashton	87
"	Pelton Fell Colliery, near Durham	24
"	Oaks Colliery Hoylemill, near Barnsley	383
"	Talke-of-the-Hill, Staffordshire	80
1867	Garswood Colliery, near St Helen's	14
"	Shankhouse Colliery, Cramlington, Northumberland	200
"	Ferndale Colliery, Rhonnda Valley, near Cardiff	178
1868	Jemmappes, Belgium	47
"	Green Pit, near Ruabon	11
"	Arley Mine, Hindley Green, Wigan	62
"	Norley Mine, Wigan	7
"	Haydock Collieries, St Helen's	26
1869	Brierly Pit, Sloubridge	17

"	High Brooks, Wigan	...	...	...	33
"	Ferndale, Glamorganshire	...	...	...	60
"	Haydock Pit, St Helen's	...	...	...	58
"	Moss Coal Company's Pits, Hindley	...	...	...	30
1870	Silverdale, Staffordshire	...	...	...	19
"	Llansamlet, Swanston	...	...	...	19
"	Brynn Hall, Wigan	...	...	...	19
1871	Renishaw Park, Eecklington, Sheffield	...	...	...	27
"	Pentre, Rhoundda Valley	...	...	...	38
"	Victoria, Ebbw Vale, Mon	...	...	...	19
"	Moss Pits, Wigan	...	...	...	70
"	Gisons, Belgium	...	...	...	30
"	Gedly, Aberdare	...	...	...	4
"	Seaham	...	...	...	30
1872	Lynvi Valley, Bridgend	...	...	...	11
"	Black Lake, South Staffordshire	...	...	...	8
"	Moreley Main, Dewsbury	...	...	...	34
"	Raivis Mine, Pendleborough	...	...	...	6
"	Moncean, Dept, Soanne-et-Loire	...	...	...	28
"	Pelsall Hall, Walsall	...	...	...	22
1873	Talk, North Staffordshire	...	...	...	20
"	Drummond Colliery, North Staffordshire	...	...	...	73
"	Shamokin, Pennsylvania	...	...	...	15
"	Meshos, Wigan	...	...	...	6
1874	Astley, Duckenfield	...	...	...	54
"	Saw Mills, Wigan	...	...	...	15
"	Raw Marsh, Rotherham	...	...	...	23
"	Biggall Hall, Dudley	...	...	...	17
1875	Aldwark Main, Rotherham	...	...	...	7
"	Ruffeoy, Dudley	...	...	...	4
"	Bunkker's Hill, North Staffordshire	...	...	...	43
"	Donnington Wood, Shropshire	...	...	...	11
"	Haigh, Wigan (Alexandria Pit)	...	...	...	7
"	Ashton Vale, Bedminster	...	...	...	4
"	Powell, Duffryn, New Tredegar	...	...	...	24
"	Llancolly, Pentyrch	...	...	...	12
"	Swaithmain, Barnsley	...	...	...	140
"	Methley Junction, Leeds	...	...	...	6
"	Mons, Belgium	...	...	...	110
1876	Talk, North Staffordshire	...	...	...	5
"	St Etienne, France	...	...	...	39
"	Berley, Sheffield	...	...	...	6
1877	Home Farm, Lanarkshire	...	...	...	9
"	Pemberton, near Wigan	...	...	...	36
"	Blantyre, near Hamilton, Lanarkshire	...	...	...	209
1878	Blantyre, Lanarkshire	...	...	...	6

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1880

KINGSEAT WATER SUPPLY

An adjourned meeting of the inhabitants was held in Campbell's Hall on Tuesday evening, for the purpose of considering what further steps should be taken in connection with the introducing of the Devon water into the village. Mr James Cunningham occupied the chair.

In opening the proceeding, the Chairman said he regretted to observe the meeting was not numerously attended, as it became every householder in the village to be interested in the introduction of a better water supply. He was not himself affected by it, more than any ordinary inhabitant; but would be willing to promote the movement. In accordance with the resolution of the former meeting, the Committee had seen Mr Carlow, and had obtained from him what practical explanation it was convenient for him to give as to how they should proceed with the matter. The first difficulty which presented itself was the fact that the Craigluscar storage ponds are under the level of Kingseat. It was, however, certain that this difficulty could be obviated when once the Glassiebarn cistern was completed, which would be at an elevation of 45 feet above Craigluscar ponds, and would, therefore, be found to be from 20 to 25 feet above the level of Kingseat. There would, therefore, be no physical obstruction to overcome in bringing the water into the place. They would be under the necessity of bringing this matter under the notice of the Town Council of Dunfermline, and of appealing to them to consider the case, and, if possible, take immediate steps to supply them from the Townhill pipe on the completion of the water-course from Glensherup. As there will be then no natural difficulty in the way, he thought it might be wise on the part of the Council, if they could take action immediately, so as to construct the water-track, and thus be in a position to form a connection with the pipe now leading to Townhill, at the same time as the main pipe will be completed between Glassiebarn and the reservoirs at Glensherup. They would perhaps feel surprised when he told them that the length of the water-course would not be under from 2000 to 2500 yards, with a probable cost of from £250 to £300. He spoke advisedly on that point, in order to give them an idea of the extent and importance of this projected undertaking. To give the Council satisfaction, and to show that they are in earnest, they could now agree to a scale of water rating, similar to the one at Townhill. Although it might be too quick to decide upon this, yet upon their own honour and integrity, they would, no doubt, be prepared to implement it when the proper time came. The elevated position of the village prevented them from having two schemes upon which to decide. The only eligible one was that of the Devon water supply. He hoped they would be all in earnest in furthering the object of the meeting, and obtain, if possible, a supply of good and wholesome water, which would conduce a good deal to the health and prosperity of the place (Applause)

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted: -

(1) This meeting of the householders of the village of Kingseat having heard the explanation of the committee on the proposed introduction of a better supply of water, is now satisfied, and resolved to ask the Town Council of Dunfermline if it will be convenient for them to take immediate steps to introduce the Devon water into this village, as we believe it to be the only available source from which we can now look for a steady and satisfactory supply.

(2) That we instruct the Water Committee to communicate with Mr John Landale, town clerk of the burgh, and to request him to bring the object of the first resolution before the Council at their first meeting.

(3) In order to satisfy the Council in regard to the system of water rates, we express ourselves willing to be guided by the system of rating as may be agreed on between them and the householders of the village of Townhill.

(4) Before taking action in accordance with the nature of these resolutions the Committee call on the householders individually, and endeavour to obtain their signatures in approval of the proposed Devon scheme; and in the event of three-fourths of the inhabitants appending their signature to the petition the Committee will take immediate action in bringing the matter before the Dunfermline Council.

Mr W. Oswald characterised the last resolution as being a very appropriate one. It was necessary that they should get the hearty approval of the entire inhabitants if possible. He thought the proprietors of the village should be willing to give a guarantee to the Dunfermline Council if it were required, as to the payment of the rates.

Mr R. Hunter stated that there were 116 double houses, and 12 single ones in the village. If every householder were to pay 3d per fortnight for a double house, and 2d for a single one, that would give a sum of £49 10s yearly, surely a very good income for an outlay of £250 or £300. Of course it must be understood that Kingseat would only pay the same rate as Townhill. They did not bind themselves to any forced rate in the meantime.

After having accorded a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman the meeting separated on the understanding that the Committee should in accordance with the fourth resolution come to at the previous meeting, canvass the village for signatures on as early a day as possible.

It is apparent that the inhabitants of the village of Kingseat are thoroughly in earnest as to the introduction of a better supply of water. Tuesday's meeting was not so largely attended as it might have been under the circumstances, but those who were present adopted a number of preliminary resolutions with a most enthusiastic will. The idea to make an individual canvas in order to obtain, if possible, the unanimous sanction of the villagers was a good one, and cannot fail to relieve all responsibility off the shoulders of the Committee. If the Devon water is the scheme to be adopted, it is well that the matter should be gone into at once, so that a pipe might be laid into Kingseat to admit of the water being turned on as soon as the Dunfermline Waterworks are permanently finished. The question of rating should, as I have said before, be easily settled, seeing a very fair precedent will be laid down by the village of Townhill. The introduction of a plentiful supply of water would no doubt materially add to the comfort of the people of Kingseat; and now that they have put their hand to the plough by way of improvements, they ought not to look back. Water being scarce, the sanitary condition of the place is not all that could be desired; but there is no doubt the Devon will soon dispel this difficulty. Of course, to people who have not been in the habit of paying anything for water, the rates will seem a little burdensome for a time, but having plenty of the essential elements at the door-step, or possibly inside the house, cannot but more than compensate for the little pecuniary loss when compared with the present very "out of the way" arrangement. The village of Kingseat may be said to be one of those places that would surprise a person who had not visited that part of the country for a short period. A few years ago - some ten or twelve - the only houses to be seen was the old farm known as "Kingseat," where at present there are houses occupied by about 130 families, the population being over 300. The houses are comfortably built, and compare not unfavourably with the dilapidated appearance of some mining villages. The colliery proprietor has a splendid hold of first-class mineral in all his pits; the coal being of the best quality, work is generally very steady. I cannot say whether the news of the impending dissolution will have found their way into most of the homes at Kingseat yet, or not, but I know that very few of those who attended the meeting at a late hour on Tuesday knew anything about what had occurred. Lord Beaconsfield's "surprise" was late of "surprising" the villagers, so I would just suggest in those days of enlightenment, when, in some towns, every working man must have his daily, that the inhabitants of Kingseat should establish a reading-room and in connection therewith a small library. With a membership of 50 a number of papers could be taken in every day; along with a few monthly periodicals which would add materially to the creating of a taste for good reading among young men. I write in all earnestness on this point. A single room would meet all the requirements, and like the water question, the good results that would follow in the wake of such a thing would more than compensate for the small outlay.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1880

HISTORICAL NOTES OF LIMEKILNS AND CHARLESTOWN

Near the western extremity of the south shore of Fife, about five miles above North Queensferry, and almost in comparative seclusion except when seen from the river on the opposite shore, are the villages and ports of Limekilns and Charlestown. There are few places almost contiguous of each other where chief characteristics are so different and yet to some extent where they are so inter-dependent. The first is an example of thorough irregularity for the way in which its building, mostly of the plainest description, have been set down. On the other hand Charlestown presents a model of forethought and design, consisting chiefly of a double row of self-contained cottages, with a small plot of garden ground in front of each, built in the form of an oblong square, and having the privilege of a common at the southern extremity. Again, Limekilns has been erected almost at the margin of the Forth, and on low, uneven ground; but Charlestown stands on an elevated plateau about 40 feet above the sea. The one dates back several centuries, and if not now in the state of decay is at least not increasing; the other has long been the scene of activity on account of its lime quarries and kilns, and also its coal traffic, the harbour being constructed in the later part of the last century principally for the exportation of coal and lime. The eastern village, which is Limekilns, has a history of its own. As the name betokens, it was there or in its vicinity where the limestone from the neighbouring quarries was first burned. In the time of the Stuarts, when Dunfermline was a Royal residence, the harbour of Limekilns was used as a landing place and a port of embarkation. Near to it shipments for the palace, consisting of fish, flesh, and the rich liqueurs of the Continent were stored in a vault or "voutes," as it is familiarly termed now. It is situated in the centre of the village, and is still in a good state of preservation. The superstructure upon this receptacle, which is more modern, has on the lintel of the doorway, the date of 1581. It was many years ago transformed into a school room, but is now only used as a hall for occasional amusements. Another old building to the eastward has upon it the year 1613, and is known as the "Panhouse," from its having been appropriated during some years for the distillation of salt. But even prior to its being owned by the Royal household, it is said that the vault was used for a like purpose by the ecclesiastics of the abbey and monastery of Dunfermline. In it they too deposited the cargoes which arrived by the rich argosies from beyond the sea. Whatever their professions of austerity, generally speaking, the monks were famous for good living, and they also selected the best places for their edifices and dwellings. Another relic worthy of notice here, and one of pre-Reformation times, is to be seen in the romantically situated churchyard of Rosyth, which is also the burying place in connection with both villages. It is about quarter of a mile east of Limekilns, in a most sequestered spot, lying between the well-cultivated fields and the shore, but on higher ground and surrounded by trees. In the centre of the ancient place of sepulture may yet be traced the outline of a foundation of what was once a place of worship, but only a gable and part of a wall now remain. It is believed to have been erected about the close of the 13th century. In some parts of the ground there are monumental inscriptions on which, though much obliterated by decay, dates of the 16th century

can be traced. This churchyard was frequently attacked, robbed of its occupants, and, it is alleged, these were disposed of to the distinguished anatomist, Dr Knox, who figured with such unenviable notoriety in the Burke and Hare tragedies, 53 years ago, by the receipt of their victims. It is also a noteworthy circumstance that there are a number of similar knolls or broad hillocks all used as cemeteries among the southern shore of Fife, at short intervals from Dysart to Kincardine.

As we have said, both villages are situated at some distance from the highway, and on that account the traveller, without any guidebook to direct him through the country, but who, during some leisurely peregrinations, having discovered the whereabouts of both places, recessed as they are at the margin of the estuary, might be apt to assume, like the lively Hibernian in his journeyings through the West of Scotland, on reaching the brow of the hill which overlooks Dalmellington, that he had found a town. Limekilns has the advantage of being sheltered from the north and east winds by the high and well-wooded policies of Broomhall. On one side the ground slopes gently backward to the fields on the east, and on the other hand it rises abruptly to an elevation of over 100 feet, crowned with an inter-mixture of pine and elm and ash trees. On those parts of the freestone rock where there is any depth of soil the vegetation is luxuriant, and at all seasons the lofty bank presents a pleasing appearance. A little to the westward is a well-known cliff called the Gellet Rock, the remains of a limestone formation, upon the summit of which, on auspicious events and occasions of rejoicing, bonfires are lighted. At an earlier period of the century there was a large seafaring population resident in Limekilns, and from 80 to 90 vessels were owned here, and were chiefly commanded by their owners. For many years coals were brought down by a horse-traction railway round the east side of the village to the harbour, so that altogether there was a considerable export and import trade. But the line has long since been discontinued, its course dug up, and the traffic diverted to Charlestown. The harbour has a depth of water for vessels of 300 tons at stream tides, but it is now almost deserted. During the last forty years the ownership of vessels has dwindled down to some half-dozen, and except an occasional visit for the purpose of repair at Brucehaven or for a cargo of coals at Charlestown, these vessels trade entirely between other ports. A considerable business was also done in shipbuilding, which afforded employment for a large number of the inhabitants, and some half-dozen craft were turned out annually. But the use of iron in marine architecture and the introduction of steam in the navigation of vessels has changed all this. There is still one slip, however, where wooden vessels of moderate dimensions are constructed, but not more than one-fourth of its former trade in this line remains. In further evidence of its importance as a shipping port, it may be mentioned that in 1815, and for many years afterwards, there was here a Mutual Marine Insurance Association, with a capital of £14,000, and its members were resident in the district. In addition to the shipbuilding, there was also an extensive brewery and malt barn. The first has long been discontinued, and only at the latter, are reduced operations now continued. The number of inhabitants in Limekilns is about 900. Most of its artisan and labouring population find employment elsewhere in several capacities. There are still a number who follow the avocation of seamen - perhaps the majority go to the various works at Charlestown, and a few to the neighbouring farms. There are about sixty young women from both villages employed in the linen factories at Dunfermline. Then, of late years, many families let part of their tenements furnished

to summer visitors, who come down to the coast principally for sea bathing. This accommodation has been further increased by the erection of houses by private individuals, but these are only occupied during the season. Except when the wind is from the south, the resort is a most agreeable one, being so close upon the estuary, and there are fine views of West Lothian, with Hopetoun House and policies, and also Blackness Castle - one of the four fortresses specified in the Act of Union which must be kept in proper condition. Further westward is the long range of Stirling and Dumbartonshire hills.

The value of a good elementary education has always been highly prized by the people here, who subscribed for the erection and the furnishing of suitable buildings. The Earl of Elgin having kindly granted the site. The efficiency of the school has been further increased during recent years by the provision of the Act of 1872, and conducted under the supervision of the Parish School Board of Dunfermline. The only place of worship in the village, or within three miles of it, is the handsome structure which was erected by the adherents of the Secession Church during 1825, in place of another building where they had previously met, and here for more than half a century the late Dr Johnstone ministered with much acceptance, being held in something like patriarchal regard by all classes for his sagacity and exemplary bearing. Various improvements of a sanitary nature have been effected on the village. The great reproach of Limekilns up to a recent period was the wretched condition of the main thoroughfare. By the energy of Lord Elgin, who is the feudal superior, that has now been removed. The causeway has been macadamised, and in some parts widened, and where it runs parallel with the beach below, a proper parapet has been erected for safety. An additional supply of water was recently procured in Limekilns in conjunction with Charlestown.

We turn now to describe more particularly the western village, which is of more recent origin, having been erected by one of the Earls of Elgin, and named after the then noble proprietor, Charlestown. It is about half a mile equi-distant from the stately mansion of Broomhall and from Limekilns. The little village with its long and widely separated rows of cottages, each with its garden, has a most unique and picturesque aspect. Its appearance at once suggests to the stranger the design of a little colony, which it really is, for a special purpose. To the westward, and running at a right angle from the northern row, are several other buildings which are occupied by a large store, Post Office, and the schoolhouse, while beyond these there is a spacious, comfortable, and well-managed hotel, which is of great advantage, chiefly to shipmasters and to their owners and relatives coming from a distance. Altogether the number of inhabitants in Charlestown is about 700. Most of the male population find employment at the harbour, the limestone quarry, the kilns, the railway, the foundry, &c. The inner basin of the harbour was constructed by Charles, Lord Elgin, about the same time he erected the village. Forty years ago an outer harbour was formed by Thomas, Lord Elgin, and in 1877 a further extension was made in the addition of a breakwater and pier by the North British Railway Company. The approach to it is easy of access. These basins and the piers cover a space of over five acres, and there is accommodation for sixty ordinary sized ships. At spring-tides sailing vessels of 500 tons and steamers of 800 tons, drawing 15 feet of water, or at neap-tides, when there is 12 feet of water, can load with safety. Since the closing of the Forth

Ironworks, the chief export is coal; the lime being mostly carried away by railway. There are appliances on the quays for shipping coal at the berths, and on an average 1000 to 1200 tons are here shipped daily. During the last ten years the export of coal at the port averaged 300,000 tons annually. The imports are chiefly pit wood, and heavier timber, manure, slates, whiting, pig-iron and rock salt. About fifty men are daily employed at the harbour in connection with the shipping. Half-a-mile distant there are massive limestone quarries; at the harbour there are nine draw kilns. The Charlestown lime has long been famous for its adhesive qualities, but in consequence of the competition from other quarries, there are not so many of the kilns in operation as during former years; at present the principal demand is land sale. The enterprise of Lord Elgin was still further exemplified when in the early part of the century, the then noble proprietor caused to be surveyed and constructed a line of railways from the collieries on the north west of Dunfermline to Charlestown harbour, by way of Culross for the purpose of bringing down the coals to the port. Since then various changes on the rails and improvements in the mode of conveyance have been made on the line. At first the rails were made of wood, and the wagons were drawn by horses. Sometime afterwards his Lordship added a branch which terminated at the Netherton of Dunfermline. A carriage for passengers was put on which ran in connection with the Stirling, Alloa, and Leith steamers. This was long regarded by the people in the west of Fife as the favourite route to Edinburgh. In 1860 the West of Fife Railway Company acquired the line, and two years later it became the property of the North British Railway Company, who took over the West of Fife mineral lines and amalgamated these with their system. Originally it was 3½ miles in length but at Upper Dunfermline, in order to avoid overcrowding, the route was changed to the south side of the town onto the trunk line between Thornton and Stirling, and northwards where it meets the work of branches that pervade the great coal trade there. Contiguous of the harbour of Charlestown, there is a patent salt work, and a saw mill about, half a mile westwards there is an extensive (? works) in which from 60 to 70 people are employed. Up until last year the great grievance of the Charlestown people was the scarcity of water; most of which was used for domestic purposes having to be carried from Limekilns. Now, however, that complaint has been completely obviated. For when the people of Dunfermline obtained an additional supply of water from Glensherup, and when the pipes were within two miles of the town, an extra pipe was carried southwards by Culross, Charlestown and Limekilns, and now there is an abundant supply of pure water to be had at all times in both villages. In this matter the young Earl of Elgin was unremitting in his meetings with the authorities at Dunfermline till the supply was accomplished. The situations of the villages far above the river, protected from the north and east winds, with its south-western exposed and far reaching views of the land and water is believed and, even in its retirement, affords advantageous features of interest which some places of greater attraction do not possess.

Special Correspondent in Daily Review

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1881.

KELTY.

Inauguration of New Co-operative Premises.

- On Saturday evening the premises newly erected by the Kelty Co-operative Society (Limited) were inaugurated by a social meeting held in Ireland's Hall. There was a very large attendance and Mr J. Beveridge occupied the chair. In addressing the meeting the Chairman congratulated the members of the Society on the present flourishing condition of affairs. Everything augured well for the future prosperity of the concern. He was sure that that large attendance did so. (Applause) The secretary had handed to him a report which he would read. From this it appeared that while the membership the first year numbered 71, there were now 169 names on the roll. The finance of the society exhibited a very great improvement. The share capital at the commencement of the society amounted to £242, while last year it had reached the figure of £658. The other items were as follows: - Drawn for goods, First Year £3501; This year £7105, or an increase of £3604; and a profit for the first year after paying all working expenses. (Applause) A considerable savings had been effected in the erection of the new premises. The estimate was for £205, but the whole building expenses had not exceeded £189. That sum, however, did not include fittings nor the purchase of site and cellar. (Applause) There could be no doubt that those statistics showed that the Society was in an exceedingly good condition. It must be clear to all that the progress had been steady. This, however, was most evident during the last three years of the Society's existence, a result which might be attributable to better management, and the working expenses being kept at as low a pitch as possible. (Applause) The members had not been burdened with debts for the erection of the new premises, the share capital been raised by 30s. Everyone would allow that the committee of management deserves great credit for the manner in which he had conceived and accomplished that matter. (Applause) The new premises were necessary in order to allow the business of the Society to be conducted in the most advantageous way. With the old premises it was found that from want of storage the Society was incurring a loss by not being able to take advantage of the markets. The members would have no reason to regret the erection of that building which were exceedingly substantial and well provided premises. (Applause) Mr Sommerville who next addressed the meeting, spoke of the necessity of union in such a society as that, and said that if anyone had a grievance he should ventilate it in the proper quarter at once. Mr Stewart, also from Dunfermline, pointed out the usefulness of co-operation, its power, and the independence which it gave to the working classes. Mr Weir, Secretary of the Fife and Clackmannan Miners' Association, gave a brief but concise address on the noble work done by the co-operation: its comforts, value, and benefits, concluding with a quiet hint that the members should prove themselves even yet more thorough co-operators than they had ever been. The proceedings were enlivened with songs and duets by the following ladies and gentlemen: - Misses Birrel, Dunfermline; and Messrs Trayner, Cowdenbeath, and W. & J. Ireland, Kelty. The meeting terminated with the usual vote of thanks.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1881.

DEATH OF MR ALEXANDER MACDONALD, M.P.

We regret to announce the death of Mr Alexander MacDonald, M.P., for Stafford, which took place on Monday afternoon at his residence at Wellhall, Hamilton. Mr MacDonald had been in failing health for some years, but the news of his death was received with feelings of surprise and sorrow by many thousands of his countrymen who have been for many years accustomed to look to him for guidance and direction, and in whose service he was actively engaged down almost to the day of his death. Towards the close of the Parliamentary session of 1880, Mr MacDonald was laid aside by severe rheumatisms, complicated with a bronchial affection, while an attack of British cholera followed. From this illness he never thoroughly recovered, but he regained strength sufficient to enable him to take part in a series of conferences held in the beginning of the following winter, with the view to the adoption of a sliding scale for the prevention of disputes between the miners and their employers. Last session of Parliament he was able to give pretty consistent attendance on the protracted sittings of the House until the end of the month of July, when he came north to Wellhall. It was not his intention to return to London, but when the passing of the Irish Land Bill was threatened he considered it his duty to be at his post in the House of Commons, and, contrary to the wish of his medical adviser, he left for the south early in August. No sooner had he settled at Wellhall, on the prorogation of Parliament, than he set on foot the agitation which has resulted in the advance of 6d on the wages of the miners of Lanarkshire and Ayrshire. The movement was inaugurated at a meeting in the Choral Hall at Hamilton, and though suffering from his old bronchial complaint, he looked better than he had done when last seen on a similar occasion at the end of last year, and he spoke with all his usual force and persuasiveness. On still another occasion in connection with this agitation he addressed a large gathering on miners. The intention was that the meeting should be held in the Choral Hall. But the day was bright and bracing, and in the old quarry at Hamilton Mr MacDonald made his last public appearance, speaking at considerable length and with no apparent diminution of his former vigour. About a fortnight ago he intended to preside at a meeting in Manchester, but being unable to attend he forwarded his address. Contrary to the advice of his friends, he on Friday week went to Leeds and transacted some business in connection with the Miners' National Union. When he returned home on Saturday night he was suffering from an attack of jaundice. During the whole of last week he was, to all appearance, progressing favourably, and on Friday last he was able to go outside and give some direction to his gardener. When his medical attendant visited him on Sunday he was slightly worse, and in the afternoon was confined to bed. On Monday morning, however, he was able to attend to his correspondence and dictate a number of letters. When Dr. Thomson, of Motherwell, was called in the forenoon, Mr MacDonald said he did not feel so well, and on examination being made it was found that a change had taken place, though there was still no cause for alarm. It was, however, agreed to have consultation with other medical men on Wednesday. Shortly after these arrangements had been made, the Hon. Gentleman's only surviving brother, Mr Archibald

MacDonald, Armadale, Bathgate, called to ascertain how the patient was progressing, and was met by the greeting "Man, I have looked long for you". A desire was then expressed that he should remain. An unopened American letter was handed to Mr Archibald MacDonald, who on opening it found it to contain intimation of the death of their brother James at Borazil, Indiana, U.S., on the 15th October. Mr MacDonald seemed to feel the blow severely, and after a moment's pause said to his brother, "Well, you have read it, and I will be the next to follow; no person can go before me." From this time the disease developed, and the patient grew rapidly worse, and at twelve minutes past three o'clock he passed away.

According the entry in his fathers family Bible, Alexander MacDonald, who was the eldest of a family of eleven, was born on the 21st June, 1821, in the farm house of Dalmacoulter, parish of New Monkland. He was wont to tell that his great-grandfather fought at Culloden, on the side of Prince Charlie, and effecting his escape at the close of the battle settled down at Harveston, in Clackmannanshire. His father was for eighteen years a sailor, but abandoning the sea he became a miner and entered the pits into which his son was introduced at the early age of eight years. At the time (according to a letter written by Mr MacDonald in 1876) there was no restriction on the hours of labour, and an idea of the hardships then endured by the miners may be gathered from the fact that young MacDonald laboured underground from twelve to seventeen hours per day. Thus early brought face to face with the hard realities of life, Mr MacDonald seems to have evinced a considerable degree of that determination of character which he afterwards exhibited in his conduct in mining affairs. As might be expected, his education on entering the mine was of the most limited character; but desirous of rising above the level in which he was born, the young miner attended evening schools or obtained such private teaching as was possible with his very limited resources. By the time he had reached his tenth year he had so far succeeded as to be able to read, and he devoured with avidity the newspapers that came in his way. The addresses of Richard Oaster, who was then advocating the cause of the factory children, and the speeches of Lord Ashley, now Earl Shaftsbury, in favour of the children of females employed in mines, had a particular fascination for him. The details with which he thus became familiar with on the conditions of other children similarly situated, combined with his own experience, made a strong impression on his mind, and even at this early period he resolved to do all he could for the elevation of the class with which he was so closely associated. From that time he steadily kept this object in view, and made what preparation he could to fit himself for the work. In 1842 a great strike occurred among the miners of Lanarkshire, and though a young man, Alexander MacDonald took an active part in its prosecution. This strike continued in some districts for nearly a year, and the low condition of the miners previous to that event may be gathered from the fact that the wages ran from 16 9d to 2s 6d per day. The active part he took in that struggle brought him prominently under the notice of the Mineowners, and his own account of this time is that "at the close of the strike I was one of those that was selected as a victim for the tyranny of the employers". Notwithstanding this tyranny he succeeded in obtaining employment, with his former determination more fully rooted than ever. Working hard all day he spent a large portion of the night in studying grammar, Latin, Greek, and mathematics, and otherwise preparing himself for entering the University. He was able to accomplish his cherished desire in 1864,

when he entered the Glasgow University. At the close of his first session he returned to the mine and continued to labour there till the winter, when he again left the pit for the class-room, and passed a second session in the University. His self-imposed labours seem to have brought him prominently under the notice of some of the employers, for in 1849 and 1850 we find him taking charge of mines, occupying his spare moments agitating the grievances of the mining population, and endeavouring to ameliorate their conditions. In 1851 Mr MacDonald abandoned the hard work of mining for the more agreeable occupation of teaching, but when the miners were in considerable trouble in 1854 he advocated their claims so heartily that they came and urged him to advise them as to their course of action. He devoted a large share of attention to the agitation that was then going on in the country reference to the proposed legislation with regard to mines, and used all the influence he possessed in favour of the measures which ultimately became law in 1855. Shortly after this he abandoned the teaching profession, and threw himself unreservedly into the movement for the benefit of the miners. In 1857 he took a leading part in the mining conference at Aston-under-Lyne, and during the next three years his labours in connection with the increased protection to miners and the education of their children culminated in the passing of the Act of 1860. Further protective measures, especially that of adding an additional shaft to each mine, were strongly advocated by him, and the result was the Act of 1862. In 1863 the miners of the country showed their appreciation of the labours of Mr MacDonald had undergone on their behalf by appointing him president of the Miner's National Association, and since then he has been unwearied in his exertions on behalf of the class who reposed such confidence in him. In that capacity he closely watched the evidence given before the Select Committee of 1865, and along with his colleagues, Normansell, Pickard, Burt Crawford, Haliday, and others, he watched the progress of the Bills introduced in 1869, 1870 and 1871, and in getting the measure passed which ultimately became law. The labour laws also engrossed a share of his attention, and he did much good in his efforts to secure legislation which tended materially to benefit the labouring classes. On several occasions he received handsome testimonials from the miners in appreciation of the efforts he had put forth in their behalf, and in 1874 he was elected one of the members of Parliament for the borough of Stafford, and had the honour of being the first working man representative returned to the House of Commons. Almost immediately after Mr MacDonald was appointed by the Government a member of the Royal Commission to enquire into Trade Unions, and he used all the influence he possessed in moulding the various bills that came before the House of Commons with reference to mines. In this work he was greatly assisted by Mr Burt, who in 1874 was elected to represent the borough of Morpeth. The conduct of Mr MacDonald with reference to the miners strike in 1874, when wages ran up to so unprecedented a figure, is well known, as also his subsequent guidance of the miners when the prosperity began to turn. At that time he steadily advocated a sliding scale, so as to avoid strikes, and largely through his influence the principle was adopted in one of the districts in the North of England. Some two or three years ago he was called on to arbitrate in a proposal to adopt the principle in one of the leading works in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, and his decision – which was then agreed to by both parties – has since worked very satisfactorily. In his appeals to the miners to take action for their own improvement, he recommended emigration to America; and to enable him to speak with some authority on the subject, he visited the United States

three times, and made himself generally acquainted with the conditions of the miners in Canada and the United States. He also turned his natural shrewdness to good account by fortunate speculation in land. By this means he made a considerable fortune, which enabled him to live in comfort. It was during the last of these visits that he met with a severe accident, from the effects of which he never wholly recovered. From this period may be dated the decline in his physical strength, and though he several times rallied and appeared in much of the vigour of his early days, yet any extraordinary effort was always followed by a reaction, which told powerfully on his frame. Those who remember the lamentable explosion at Blantyre in 1877 will recall the active interest which Mr MacDonald displayed then, and it was mainly through his exertions that the inquiry into the catastrophe was made public. All through his life he has been the friend of the miner. He suffered much at the hands of those who did not agree with him. Those who opposed him strongly he as strongly denounced, and such was his power over the miners he was almost always successful in persuading them to adopt the policy he recommended. Mr MacDonald retained the position of president of the Miner's National Association till the end, and though in his lifetime he had enemies, these will doubtless join with his friends in awarding praise to him for all he did to raise the class to which he belonged.

While Mr MacDonald was acting as the leading adviser of the miners he resided at Holytown, but during the same year in which he entered Parliament he purchased the small estate of Wellhall, near Hamilton, to which he retired after the labours of the Parliament session.

When Mr MacDonald first appeared on the scene and agitated in the direction of improving the condition of the miners, they were in a sad state. In some districts of Scotland they were little better than serfs; their houses were miserable hovels; their surroundings were of the most degrading character, their own customs were degrading, their daily and nightly work was hazardous and slavish, the men were spiritless and thoroughly disorganised. A new era dawned for the miners with the appearance of Alexander MacDonald. But he had a hard fight to persuade the doubting men that he was their friend. Had he been a man of faint heart he would have soon retreated before the apathy he met in the ranks of the men, and from the obloquy showered upon him by employers and their agents, and periodically the press. But all this abuse, whether in whole or in part merited, served Mr MacDonald's purpose. It broke down indifference which his rough-and-ready eloquence, and what were considered his revolutionary doctrines, had been unable to effect in any perceptible degree. It secured for him the ear of the miners, and soon whereas he had formerly difficulty in getting a group of men to meet him in a village public house, his appearance attracted crowded halls, and inspired monster demonstrations, which in time led to the formation of powerful organisations, and to the adoption of measures which completely changed the character of the mining population, and secured stringent regulations for the conduct of work in the mines. Mr MacDonald proved himself a powerful agitator, and subsequently a skilful negotiator. He was not a polished orator, although a well-read man, and the credited possessor of one of the finest private libraries in the country; neither was he gentle in his dealings with his opponents – in fact, politeness was not his forte, and he was in public discussion generally more plain than pleasant. For many years he was

regarded as the thorn in the mine owners flesh. His exposures were galling, and when they chanced to be deserved, as they often were, the wincing of the proprietors was not an elevating spectacle. That he often overshot the mark is true, but that did not concern him so long as his purpose was gained, and the interests of the men for whom he acted were directly or indirectly promoted. The truth is that Mr MacDonald found rough work to do, and he did it earnestly and valiantly. His first task was to secure the confidence of the miners themselves, and this was not so easy as presumably he had expected, and then, with a great strength at his back, to carry a great assault into the employer's camp at one time and into the Legislature at another. His forces, when he got them into line, were a great power to him. They supplied the needed voice with their periodical resolutions, and, at the same time they kept the coffers full; so that the struggle needed not to suffer from lack of gold. But at the best these forces were wayward, and Mr MacDonald, strong willed and harp tongued as he was, often was driven to his wit's end how to manage them. He led them to victory, and when prosperity was attained in full measure the ranks visibly thinned; then new importations came into the field where little fortunes were being made, who sowed seeds of dissension, or new men arose who wished to share Mr MacDonald's power. The result was endless suspicion, great heartburnings, and repeated conflicts which often weakened the organisation, and which generally brought down upon the disturbers the hot scolding of the great leader, who in the end always proved the strong man. Over and over again attempts were made to hurl him from his position as leader, but just as often the assaults, whether overt or open, ignominiously failed, and for many long years Mr MacDonald ruled supreme – the Miners' King.

Long after he had become a power in Scotland, Mr MacDonald had not only to combat distrust which was every now and again appearing among discontents in mining districts, but he suffered from the fact that he was regarded by some of the employers and by a large section of the commercial public as a "suspected person". His very success created enemies, but Mr MacDonald was never much disturbed by the attacks which were made upon his character and his policy. He was frequently heavily hit, but his severest opponent never gave harder than he got in return. For a period of his career he was not only distrusted, but something worse than despised and hated. Perhaps much of this uncharitable feeling was due to the fear which his public agitation created; certainly a great part of it could be directly traced to jealousy of his triumphs. In illustrations we may recall an authentic incident. One day, Mr MacDonald had been addressing a monster meeting of the Fife and Clackmannan Miners at Kinross. On the return journey the train halted for half an hour at Rumbling Bridge Station, where there was little traffic, and complete stillness prevailed. By-and-bye two swellfish dressed gentlemen, who had been out shooting, appeared on the platform at the side of which the train was drawn up, and in a loud tone of voice they commenced discussing the miners' affairs and the character of their champion. They took great liberties with Mr MacDonald's name, and talked libel literally by the yard, in perfect innocence that the subject of their venom was hearing every word that was being uttered. They represented Mr MacDonald as a man who played with the miners, who duped them for his own purposes, who received tips from some of the employers, and much more of this nonsense. The conversation continued until it became positively dangerous, and was only abruptly stopped when a passenger in the compartment adjoining that in which Mr MacDonald was seated wrote in large letters

the words, placing them against the window – “MacDonald is in the next carriage.” A more complete collapse was never seen or heard of. The talkative sportsmen looked as if they could have desired that the earth would open up and swallow them. They studied their boots, they looked east and then they looked west, and finally they bolted out of the station. The man who enjoyed their discomfiture most was Mr MacDonald himself, and on many occasions afterwards he referred to the circumstance with perfect good nature.

The general impression regarding Mr MacDonald, and it was often expressed, was that if he had done much for the miners, they in turn did much for him. There is no doubt they did, and Mr MacDonald was never ashamed to own to it. But he worked hard for them. In the early days of his agitation he travelled far and near, and spoke incessantly, sometimes to village meetings, occasionally to groups at the pit heads, sometimes in the open field, where vast crowds congregated to hear him, and at noon and night in halls packed from floor to ceiling. Even after he was returned as a Member of Parliament, and desired some relief from the work of agitation, he was frequently called to Scotland – oftentimes making midnight journeys to preside at the fortnightly conferences, or to take the principal part in trade meetings and the big outdoor demonstrations. During the past ten years, Mr MacDonald desired to be relieved of much of the work in which in former days, when he was more robust, he found a real pleasure, but trade depression came and cries arose which ever and anon demanded his attention, and called forth all his energies. Meanwhile he was often depressed, not only by unpleasant events arising among the miners, but by the condition of his own precarious health. Frequently he alluded to this, and generally took the view of the dyspeptic that his constitution was failing him, and he applied himself to his onerous duties with all the enthusiasm which distinguished his earlier days.

It may be interesting here to reproduce the following statement which Mr MacDonald published sometime ago in reply to a London newspaper, which described him as an “amateur working class member”, and represented Messrs Burt and Broadhurst as bona-fide working class members. Mr MacDonald wrote: - “1. I am the son of a miner. 2. I was taken into the mine in my eighth year. There was no law to prevent the miners child (male or female) then to be taken into the mine in their first year. 3. I worked longer as a miner than either Mr Burt or Mr Broadhurst in their respective occupations. 4. I have suffered from the effects of fire-damp explosion. They are to be seen on my body now. 5. Because of my practical knowledge as a miner, I was engaged to act as secretary for them in Scotland, as Mr Burt has been in Northumberland, to look after their interests. From 1850 till now no measure has been taken before the House of Commons in the interest of the miners that I have not taken part in by their express desire. 7. In 1863 I was elected President of the Miners’ National Association. I have been President in its various phases for the long period of nearly seventeen years, because I was a working miner. 8. I have been, and was, the President of the Trades’ Union Parliamentary Committee when elected to act as one of the M.P.’s for Stafford in 1874. 9. By the working men of Stafford I was elected their representative, because I was a working man in the same sense as my friend Mr Burt is. 10. By the miners of the United Kingdom, my election expenses were paid in 1874. 11. By the Miners’ National Union my election costs were again

paid in 1880 because I have been and am the President of that Trade Union – with the largest number of members of any Trade Union in Britain. There is much more I could say which is fully known to every trade unionist in the United Kingdom – aye, and much beyond that limit. Mr MacDonald asks: - “Am I an amateur because I happened to be born some 20 years before my other friends, or why?”

Mr MacDonald left instructions that his funeral should be private, and that he should be interred in New Monkland churchyard, where his mother is buried. The funeral will take place on Monday.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1881.

FUNERAL OF MR ALEXANDER MACDONALD, M.P.

The funeral of Mr Alexander MacDonald M.P., took place on Monday. The miners of the district would willingly have accorded their lamented friend and adviser a public funeral, but his relatives in full sympathy with his latest instructions, resolved that it should be private. The miners of Hamilton and surroundings districts, although prevented from taking immediate part in the obsequious observed the day as a holiday in token of respect, and the great national trades organisation of the working classes of England, including Mr MacDonald's late constituents of the borough of Stafford, sent their leaders to represent them on the occasion. The Fife and Clackmannan miners were also idle. For the season the weather was mild and spring like, with strong sunshine. The funeral party began to arrive shortly after ten o'clock, and assembled in the dinning and drawing rooms of the fine old mansion house of Wellhall, in the immediate vicinity of Hamilton, where towards eleven o'clock a religious service was conducted by the Rev. William Watt, Norrieston, Perthshire, uncle of deceased. At this time the company assembled included Mr Watson of Garnock, Mr MacDonald's near neighbour, and chairman of the Lanarkshire Coalmaster's Association; Bailie Archibald, representing, in the unavoidable absence of Provost Cassels, the Town Council of Hamilton; the chief mourners (in addition to the Rev. Mr Watt), Mr Archibald MacDonald, brother, and Mr George and Mr John MacDonald, nephews; Dr Thomson, Motherwell; Mr Lucas, writer, Glasgow; Mr Henry McLauchlan, accountant, Coatbridge; Mr Alex Simpson, C.E., Glasgow; Mr Thomas Halliday, Bolton; Mr John E. Livesey, Wigan; from Mr MacDonald's late constituents of Stafford - Messrs John Geddes, secretary of his Parliamentary Committee; Horsfall, representing the Stafford branch of the National Union of Riveters and Finishers and the Labour League, and Councillor Smith, also a representative of the Labour League. The following representatives of the various miners' associations were also present; Miners' National Union - B. Pickard, vice president; J. Bryson, J. Wilson, E. Cowey, J. Foreman, J. Toyne, J. Nixon, treasurer; and W. Crawford, secretary. Northumberland Miners' - T. Burt, M.P.; R. Young, Durham. Miners' Federation Board, including mechanics, cokemen, and enginemen - N. Wilkinson, W.H. Paterson, W. Johnstone, T. Hindmarsh, T. Hart, L. Trotter. Durham Miners' Association - S. Hill. Cleveland Miners' Association - T. Dunn, R. Rolland. - Yorkshire Miners' Association - J. Firth, W. Parrot. Lancashire Miners' Association - J. Beech, T. Ashton, W. McKay, T. Aspinwall. Cumberland Miners' Association - A. Sharp. Fife and Clackmannan Miners' Association - John Weir. Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee - H. Broadhurst, M.P.; John Inglis and William Paterson, Glasgow. Amongst the company were also - John Smith and John Johnstone, Wishaw; and R. Steel, Motherwell. The coffin, of massive oak, enclosing one of lead, was laid out in the hall, the lid being covered with wreaths of flowers from the National Miners' Union and other bodies and private friends. A brass plate bore the following inscription: - "Alexander MacDonald, M.P., died 31st October, 1881, aged 60 years". The Rev. Mr Watt having read Psalm cxxiii. and offered up an

impressive prayer, the funeral cortege was formed, comprising hearse, drawn by four horses with postillion, and twenty-four mourning coaches, each drawn by two horses. In accordance with the recommendation of the meeting of the delegates held last week, the miners of Hamilton and district remained idle out of respect to deceased's memory, and, with the general public, lined the route, followed by the procession - Wellhall Road, Peacock Cross, Almada and Cadzow Streets, and Edinburgh Road on to Motherwell. The procession was nearly a quarter of a mile long, and, though public could not have evoked more deep or widespread interest. Many shopkeepers closed their shops, and as a general rule the blinds of private houses were drawn, while by order of Provost Cassels and the Magistrates a funeral peal was rung out from the Town Hall steeple. After the procession had proceeded a goodly distance on its way to Motherwell the thoroughfares still remained busy for some considerable time. The remainder of the route was via Holytown to the ancient churchyard of New Monkland, where all that was mortal of Alexander MacDonald was laid where there reposes the dust of his mother, "whom he loved". The entire funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr G. McTaggart, undertaker and carriage hirer, Peacock Cross, Hamilton.

At a representative miners' delegate meeting held at Rhondda Valley on Thursday, a resolution was passed recommending to the National Miners' Union the propriety of getting a subscription of a penny from each miner in the kingdom for the purpose of raising a monument or founding a University Industrial Scholarship in memory of the Late Mr MacDonald, M.P.

DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21st, 1882

H.M. INSPECTORS' REPORTS ON DUNFERMLINE BOARD SCHOOLS

The following are H.M. Inspectors' reports on the Board Schools in Dunfermline: -

FREE ABBEY SCHOOL

"The discipline is satisfactory, very good progress has been made in the Standard work during the year, and, with the exception of the Fifth's History and Geography, class instruction meets the requirements creditably. The reading is above the average in style and expression. The singing is excellent."

PITTENCRIEFF SCHOOL

Mixed School - "The discipline, as a whole, is excellent. The Standard pass shows an advance on that of last year, the difference being mainly due to the improved condition of the Fifth. The attainment in class instruction are very satisfactory throughout. Map-drawing is well attended to. The senior reading and repetition maintain the former high character. A small class in German acquits itself very creditably."

Infants' School - "This department maintains its very good general efficiency, but the style of reading is capable of improvement."

ST LEONARD'S SCHOOL

Mixed School - "Excellent discipline is maintained, and the state of instruction in both Standards and classes indicate a highly satisfactory year's work. The Grammar of the Fifth Standard has improved; but their composition is again a weak point. The care bestowed on the reading and copy-books is praiseworthy. The junior intelligence has been well trained. In History and Geography the Forth Standard makes a remarkably good appearance; the Geography of Fife, including map-drawing, should be more fully known by the Fifth Standard. The presentation in Specific Subjects is more numerous and quite as successful as formerly. The part singing is very creditable."

Infant's School - "This department makes a very promising appearance under the new teacher. The discipline is excellent, and instruction is imparted with much skill and success, the Reading-Object Lesson and singing are more especially deserving."

COMMERCIAL SCHOOL

Mixed School - "The discipline, as a whole, is satisfactory; but the orderly and mannerly attention should be more easily secured in the Junior Section. The Standard results are pretty much the same as last year, indicating a very good years' work, especially in arithmetic. The reading, however, is still capable of considerable

improvement; the position of the scholars at this exercise should be better studied, and model reading practised. Class instruction readily meets the requirements, particularly in the Second and Third; the history of the Forth and Fifth; and the Geography of the Sixth. A creditable amount of work has been done in specific subjects; greater expression should still be aimed at in the repetition. Military drill is well taught to the boys above the Forth Standard in the Board Schools. The singing is very fair; a considerable portion of the junior scholars should be better acquainted with the songs professed. The sewing-room is too small."

Infant School - "This department is conducted with excellent order, and highly satisfactory general efficiency."

FEMALE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

Mixed School - "Admirable discipline is maintained with a healthy tone. The work of the first, second and third, is practically faultless, their reading and intelligence deserving special commendation. The Forth (arithmetic excepted) and the Fifth are also good Standards. The Grammar and Composition of the Sixth are very creditable, but their Arithmetic and Class attainments do not reach the level of the rest of the school. I have again to notice the excellence of the copy-books. Domestic Industry in this and the other Board Schools superintended by the Ladies' Committee ranks among the very best in the district. The singing is very good."

Infant School - "This department makes an excellent appearance in respect of discipline and instruction. The attention paid to Expressive Reading forms a very satisfactory feature of the efficiency.

(to be continued)

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 21st, 1882

NOTES FROM KINGSEAT

NEW WATER SUPPLY

A few days ago the inhabitants of this village had an introduction of water from Loch Fitty on an improved system. To trace the origin of the agitation, which led to the improvement, it will be remembered that meetings of the householders were held on the question about two years since. At those meetings it was considered that the supply then received from the loch was, for several reasons, unsatisfactory, and resolutions were passed in favour of getting the Devon water. A committee of five householders was accordingly appointed to take what steps seemed necessary to accomplish this end. No delay took place in communicating, both with letter and by deputation, with the Water Committee in connection with the Town Council of Dunfermline. These communications, however, resulted in receiving repeatedly a reply "that the use of the Devon water would only be granted on the understanding that the householders themselves and other interested parties bear the cost of laying the pipes from Townhill to Kingseat." It was further stated that it would be "granted on the same footing as was then done to the people of Charlestown and Limekilns - viz, threepence per thousand gallons, which would be given off by meter at the junction with the Townhill pipe". The Committee contended that the Council should lay the pipes "in the same way as had been done for the people of Townhill," and also stated the idea of the householders laying their own pipe was untenable, "owing to much of the people being only fortnightly tenants, and, therefore, had a very uncertain connection with the village." Not being able to come to an understanding either with the Council or the resident feuars about defraying the cost of the scheme, it was agreed to place the question in the hands of Mr Carlow, manager, Kingseat, with a view to having it brought before Mr Wallace of Halbeath. As soon as this was done there was no further hesitation about the matter, and Mr Carlow was instructed to proceed with the work. An examination of the ground leading from Townhill road eastward proved that the level of the Devon water only reached a point 15 to 20 feet below the higher parts of the village of Kingseat. Consequently the water could not be distributed in the usual manner without artificial means. The cost of providing continual power to force the water above the natural level, together with the tax that would had to be paid for the use of it, were regarded as sufficient reasons for the abandonment of this scheme altogether. Mr Carlow then turned his attention northwards to the Gask Burn (the source of which is higher than the Devon) at a point a few hundred yards to the west of the Gask Toll. Had this scheme proved practicable, it was intended to have acted in conjunction with the Lassodie Coal Company, and to have supplied the village belonging to that company also, Mr Buchannan, C.E., Edinburgh, was instructed to survey the ground, and on doing so estimated the cost of laying pipes, &c., at over £2000. Mr Lawrence Dalgleish, proprietor of the lands, proposed heavy annual burdens, to last for a period of thirty years, for certain privileges in connection therewith. The nature of Mr Dalgleish's

terms, which could not be very well submitted to, along with the heavy outlay according to Mr Buchannan's survey, also put an end to the Gask Burn proposition. The present improved Loch Fitty scheme was the last decided upon, and has been carried out at a cost of several hundred pounds. The improvement mainly consists in the water passing on its journey through large filtering ponds. In its first stage it is drawn from the loch to No 1 filtering pond at an elevation of 65 feet. This is done by a wheel kept in motion by the surplus water from the colliery pumping engines. From thence it is raised to No 2 filtering pond, to a height of 180 feet, by means of a donkey engine. In No 1 pond the water is allowed to settle down and undergo partial filtration; while at No 2, which is carefully constructed and divided into six compartments filled with various sort of material, the water is supposed to undergo thorough filtration. From here it is distributed in wells through the village. It may be stated that it is Mr Carlow's intention to improve this source of supply still further by placing a large iron tank alongside No 2 pond, to serve as an additional purifier. The pipes on the south side of the loch are to be laid to the west of No 1 pit burn, so that the water taken from there may be free from mineral hardness and other impure matters. And after a time, should these improvements fail to give satisfaction, it is very likely that the pipes will be carried on to Meldrum's Mill burn, a distance of a thousand yards, and thus keep clear of the loch altogether - Mr Wallace being anxious to have this scheme made all that it possibly can be. If this were done it will still further allow the water to be free from any probable impurities, arising from animal or vegetable decomposition supposed to collect in the basin of the loch.

DEVELOPMENT OF MINING INTERESTS.

Some notice of the development of the mining interests connected with the district of Kingseat may not be uninteresting to the readers of the Journal. Both the village itself and the colliery centigone thereto have, it may be said, sprung into existence within the last twenty years, and for the most part is owned by Mr Wallace. Several of the houses, however, belong to the well-to-do workmen employed at the colliery. The village contains seven hundred inhabitants; situated about three and a half miles from Dunfermline, and half a mile from Loch Fitty. The loch itself is shallow and the scenery around is tame; but in the summer months, under the setting sun, the broad meadows and the tortuous windings of the stream which flows in on the west side, and the many pastoral hills in the background forms a somewhat pleasant and interesting scene. There are over five hundred hands employed at the works, who may be regarded as a very sober, steady, and industrious class of workpeople. It is seldom that any "rupture" occurs either individually or collectively between them and their employer, so that dismiss in accruing from those causes are scarcely ever heard of. The colliery consists of three pits; is compact and skilfully put down on the coal field, so as to admit of continuous and proportionate source of coal being delivered from each of them - the output amounting in the aggregate to between 600 and 700 tons a day. The way in which the colliery has been constituted, besides the daily administration of affairs, is, it may be fairly stated in the main part, due to the practical skill and energy of Mr Carlow, the general manager, who has acted as such in the most faithful and zealous manner for the long period of nearly 24 years. The Coal raised is of excellent quality, both for steam and for household purposes. The Halbeath Coal was favourably reported on along with others in a chemical study made

a few years ago by Professor Heddie of the St Andrew's University. The outlets to the markets of the world is by the West of Fife Mineral Railway, which joins both on the east and west to the main lines of the North British system. The principal shipments made are at Burntisland, Charlestown, and Dundee, while the household coal enter largely into the Edinburgh markets, and go as far north and east as Aberdeen and Inverness. The system of working, generally pursued underground is that known as the "long wall" principle, which, although perhaps a little more dangerous than the stoop-and-room system, is at the same time the most healthy for the miners. As by it less obstruction is given to an almost continuous and unbroken current of air to flow around and also to come closer upon the workmen. A rarefying furnace is constantly kept on at the bottom of No 2 Pit, augmented in heating power by the waste steam from two haulage engines below ground, which swells the ascending current, and thus helps the atmospheric pressure which operates upon the mouths of the other shafts occupying the position of downcasts. The method of splitting the air, which is the best, is commonly adhered to, and although there are miles of subterraneous passages through which the air current has to traverse in serving the various divisions of the workings, yet it is seldom that any stoppage is experienced for want of ventilation in any sectional part of the pits.

The rocks of the district belong to the carboniferous series, and so far as appearance goes, on the surface, they are only interrupted in one or two instances by "trap" formation. The strata consists alternately of clayshale, sandstone, faikie, imperfect bands of ironstone in layers and modules, with workable beds of coal. These beds of coal, stretching from two to seven hundred yards between the "dykes" or faults, are remarkably free from smaller intervening disturbances, and the basis of the coalfields are, in all cases, determined by the position of the carboniferous limestone, there being only one thin unworkable seam between that and the splint coal. The run of the "dykes" is from north-west to south-east, and the decline of the coal beds towards these "faults" is at an angle of 1 in 2 to 1 in 6, thus the coalfields are intersected and shunted round in the direction of these great fissures, causing the leading point of the workings to tend under Loch Fitty. This movement causes at times an alteration in the way of getting the coal, in order that there should be no unusual subsidence in the strata, especially in the more elevated parts, or by the "veese" of the "dykes", which is often overlined in vertical position with soft clayshale. A little prudent and timely action in altering the system of working prevents what, in course of time, might lead to an inundation of water. It may be interesting to state that the coal measures of the district are of a very fossiliferous nature, many beautiful specimens of vegetable organisms are to be found existing in the micaceous beds forming both the upper and under clays. In the under clay or floor of the splint seam the *stigmaria* exists in great abundance, which is regarded as the roots of the *sigallaria* and other plants, whose decomposition and mineralisation formed the seams of coal. In the upper clay which constitutes the roof of the splint there are many neat and distinct portions of the branches of these trees to be met with in a petrified state, the barking preserved by being transformed into coaly substance. The five foot seam presents similar objects of interest; the *sigallaria elegans* being frequently observable standing in upright position in the clays, and occasional teeth of sawroid fish, showing to some extent the nature of the animals that moved about in those ancient seas. Some of the stems of these plants which have been fluted at one time and now flattened by compressure, are

lying horizontally on the surface of the coal measure, and extend in some cases from 12 to 18 feet long by the same number of inches broad. The beautiful impressions referred to are as "the footprints of the Creator", and show what was the appearance of the coal forest belonging to that period.

In concluding this article, descriptive, so far, of the district, we can only hope that the good folks of Kingseat will now have water abundantly, and of such quality as will very much promote their social well-being.

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DUNFERMLINE CELTIC SOCIETY.

LOCAL ETYMOLOGIES OF THE WEST NEUK OF FIFE.

At a meeting of the members of the Dunfermline Celtic Society and their friends held in St Margaret's Hall on Wednesday evening, Mr David Beveridge, St Mungoe's, Culross, read a paper on "The Etymology of Places in the West Neuk of Fife". Mr George Robertson, F.S.A. Scot., Junior Chieftain of the Society, occupied the chair, and among those present were: Provost Wells; ex-Provost Mathieson; Mr Erskine Beveridge; Dr Morris; Mr G Lauder; Mr W Mathewson jun; Mr James McFarlane; Mr Robert Reid; Mr J Smith; Rev. Mr Imrie, Chaplain; Mr Kenneth Mathieson jun, Secretary; Mr P.J. Souta

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THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF COWDENBEATH

Few villages in the county of Fifeshire have made more rapid strides than that of Cowdenbeath. Some of the older inhabitants boast of remembering well the time when they could have counted nearly all the "houses in the locality on their finger ends," whereas at present the village promises to develop into a mining centre of considerable dimensions. As the coalfields of the district have been gradually opened up, so the housing accommodation has been added to, and in 1871 the population was set down at 1500. Under the command of Mr H. Mungall, the Cowdenbeath Colliery at this time showed greater signs than it had previously done of becoming an extensive concern, and while the coal company took to building a good many houses a number of the more provident workmen made up their minds to become proprietors of their own dwellings. The building operations received an impetus both among employers and employed from the high wage period of 1872-73, and in 1874 quite a number of two storey buildings were raised along the North Road. From this date the increase has been steady, and to-day the population numbers at least 3000. Numerous colliery villages throughout Scotland have been known to have been rushed into existence in a mere handful of years to as great dimensions as that of Cowdenbeath, and in consequence of the coalfields becoming exhausted have soon presented a deserted, in fact, an appearance of desolation. There is, however, no probability of this being the case at Cowdenbeath for many years to come. The Colliery shows the most apparent signs of vitality, and an enormous quantity of coal is known to exist throughout the district. Only a short time ago the Cowdenbeath Coal Company purchased the mineral estate of Foulford, and have also recently obtained a lease of the coal and iron which has for many years been worked by the Lumphinnans Coal and Iron Company. The entire Lumphinnans property has been handed over to the Cowdenbeath Company, and the miners have all been re-engaged. With these important acquisitions, the Cowdenbeath Company have now a hold of one of the most extensive and compact coalfields under the command of any single company in Scotland. All the seams common to the locality are known to exist throughout the entire area of 1800 acres, and it is estimated that the area will yield at least 100,000,000 tons of coal. Presently there are four pits in operation, yielding, at least, 1200 tons a day!, but these will be supplemented by another which is in process of sinking on the Foulford estate. This pit has already reached a depth of 80 fathoms, but will have to be sunk at least another 90 ere the Dunfermline splint or lower seam are struck. As the pit will, so to speak, be in the centre of the coalfield, machinery capable of coping with an extensive "grip" of minerals is being fitted up on the bank. A powerful direct-acting pumping engine, with a 72 inch cylinder, and 13 feet stroke, has been erected, and is already in operation. The winding is done by a pair of handsome coupled engines of 160 horse power, while the steam is supplied from five double-flued steel boilers, which work at a pressure of 70 lbs. to the square inch. Altogether the fittings of this pit are extensive, and of the very best type, and should,

when the field is opened out, cope with a daily output of 400 tons. One feature at Cowdenbeath Colliery is the recent introduction of what is known as a "coal washer". The "washer" is, indeed, a very ingenious piece of machinery, and is the only one in operation in Fifeshire. By it, churls and small coals are put through a thorough process of washing, and are separated into what is technically known as "nuts" and "beans" - stones and dust being entirely tossed aside. As might be expected, the washing process enhances the value of the coals.

As throughout the entire county of Fife, the miners of Cowdenbeath are a very steady class of men, and adhere rigidly to the eight hours' system of working. A cry for "more light" has resulted in the introduction of lamps in the streets, which are certainly an improvement in the dark winter night; but the leading "stars" of the place should follow the example of less pretentious villages and open a reading-room, which might gradually be backed up by a small library. In almost every village throughout the country dependent on other than mining industries, institutions where a profitable hour can be spent daily are to be found, and it is not too much to say that could all concerned be induced to take the hint in every colliery district the benefit would be incalculable. The results would be great intellectually, fewer hours would be spent by young men in public-houses - youths, in fact, who should blush to enter such places - and less working time would be lost. It is to be hoped that the cry for "more light" in Cowdenbeath will not culminate in the purchase of a few paraffin oil lamps.

The education machinery presently in existence at Cowdenbeath compares most favourably with that in existence previous to the passing of the Education Act. The Board School, capable of accommodating 800 scholars, is most efficiently taught - the results yearly declared by the Government Inspector being such as to make this apparent. Within the past few years the church accommodation is stated to have "burst its bounds", and the U.P's, fully alive to this, have resolved to open a mission station on an early date. A brick church will be built at a cost of £300.

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MEMORIAL TO THE SECESSION FATHERS.

FOUNDATION-STONE CEREMONY.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Rev. Principal Cairns laid the foundation stone of a memorial to the Secession Fathers, and to celebrate the origin of the United Presbyterian Church. The place selected for the erection of the monument was Gairney Bridge, a small hamlet about three miles south of Kinross, and a half mile north of Blairadam. The reason for the selection of this comparatively obscure spot was that within a stone throw of the memorial on the 5th December, 1735, Ebenezer Erskine, Stirling; William Wilson, Perth; James Fisher, Kinclaven; and Alex. Moncrieff, Abernethy, met, and, after two days spent in prayer and conference, constituted themselves into the "Associate Presbytery".

Gairney Bridge is the name of the farm situated on the turnpike road between Blairadam and Kinross. A hundred and fifty years ago, and for generations before and since it belonged to a family named Bennet, who at the time we particularly refer to combined the occupations of malting and brewing with that of farming. Why Ebenezer Erskine and his three friends selected this comparatively obscure spot for their meeting can only be surmised. Its central position may have marked it as a suitable meeting place, and perhaps Erskine's familiarity with the district and its surroundings may have been additional reasons for their resorting thither. There are various traditions as to the exact apartments in which the deliberations of the Secession Fathers took place. By some it is believed that the building does not now exist, while others point out a low range of houses, forming part of the Gairney Bridge steadings, as the site of their meeting place. Mr Marshall, Kinross, a Fellow of the Scottish Society of Antiquaries, has prosecuted an inquiry on this point, and he states his belief that an apartment which is now used as a stable, formed a portion of the hostelry in which these brethren communed together, and that a gable and closed up window of the room in which they met still exists. The surroundings of the spot, cold and bleak-looking as they were on Wednesday, are yet picturesque and beautiful. The house stands opposite the spot where Benarty dips its western shoulder sharply to the highway. A little to the north-east is the western point of the Lomond Hills, at the base of which lies the village of Portmoak, the scene of Ebenezer Erskine's first labours as a minister; and the hamlet of Scotlandwell, where Michael Bruce lived his quiet life, composed his sweet songs, and was at last buried. A little further to the north lies the basin of the picturesque and historic Loch Leven, reflecting in its bosom the shadows of the Lomonds; the bold outline of the Ochils, covered with a thin coating of snow, stretches far to the west; and the wooded hills of Cleish closes up the view on the south.

About twelve months have now elapsed since the initiatory measures were taken for the erection of the monument. The cost of the monument is calculated at about £500.

It takes the form of an obelisk of grey Aberdeen granite resting upon granite slabs. The pedestal is a piece of granite 4 feet square and 6 inches deep, and weighing 5½ tons. The obelisk from foundation to top will be 38 feet, and will weigh between 34 and 35 tons. It is intended that should the amount stated be subscribed - and a considerable portion of it has already been promised or sent in - that a bronze figure in alto-relievo of the four "Fathers" should be placed at each corner of the pedestal. The monument is designed by Messrs MacDonald, Field, & Co., Aberdeen, and the work is being done by Mr Symon, Milnathort.

Although the weather was cold and the wind sharp, the ceremony was performed in presence of 1500 ladies and gentlemen, including ministers and elders of the United Presbyterian Church in all parts of Scotland, as far north as Aberdeen, and several ministers of the Free Church in the district. Among them were - The Rev. Principal Cairns, the Rev. Dr A. Thomson, Edinburgh; the Rev. G. Carr, Calston Street Church; Mr John Slight, treasurer of the U.P. Church; Mr J. Anderson Brown, censor of the Theological Hall, as representing the students; the Rev. Mr Clark, Abernethy; the Rev. Mr Rankine, Cupar; the rev. Mr Barlas, Musselburgh, who is descended from Moncrieff, one of the Secession Fathers; Mr J. Wilson Jameson, Bank of Scotland, Perth, a descendant of Moncrieff; and Wilson, &c. Notwithstanding that the very word Secession recalls to mind the name of the Erskine's - names associated with Dunfermline - only five representatives put in an appearance from the ancient city. Amongst them were the Rev. Mr Russell, St Margaret's U.P. Church.

Dr Thomson of Edinburgh, said the desire to erect monuments to the memory of men who had done good work, or had borne great sufferings for their country, the Church, or the race, was deeply rooted in every human heart. They saw its workings even in the savage, who cast his stone upon the cairn which marks the grave of his chief, and in the monuments of brass or marble or granite which civilised nations erect to perpetuate the names of men who have rendered distinguished services as inventors, statesmen, reformers, and Christian martyrs. That was done not only in gratitude for the services of the mighty dead, but also to inspire a love of that spirit which prompted these services. It was said that the sight of the sculptured monuments to the memory of those who died for the freedom of Greece on the plains of Marathon inspired their successors to guard these liberties. But here they were assembled to lay the foundation of a monument to the four brethren who, on the same spot or very near it, met here 150 years ago and originated the Secession Church. When it was proposed to erect the Wallace Monument on the Abbey Craig, someone said that all Scotland was his monument. The same might be said of the four Secession fathers of Scotland. Their monuments are the Secession Churches over the land, and also those in other lands which have been reared and sustained out of the home treasury. Dr Thomson concluded by offering the thanks of the committee to Miss Bogie, who had so generously given a site for the monument.

A number of books, &c., contained in a glass jar, were then deposited in a cavity underneath the foundation stone.

Subsequently Dr Thomson presented Principal Cairn with a handsome silver trowel, and Principal Cairns, after some preliminary observations, and having referred to the purpose of the monument to Rev. Ebenezer Erskine, Stirling; Wm Wilson, Perth; Alex. Moncrieff, Abernethy; and James Fisher, Kinclaven, who formed the first associate Presbytery there, went on to give a brief narrative of the events which took place between the proceedings of the Assembly's November Commission of 1733, when the four brethren were separated from their churches, till 1737, when they were joined by Mr Ralph Erskine, Dunfermline, and Mr Mair, Ordwell, and in the following year by Mr Nairn, Abbotshall, and Mr Thomson, Burntisland. Thereafter they were finally deposed and cast out. The brethren had come there, however, not as pilgrims to a shrine, but they had come to that comparatively obscure spot, beautiful indeed in its outward aspect, to speak of the principles which those men vindicated and the influence which those principles had exerted, and also the duties and responsibilities, still binding, which were imposed on their successors. It was a cause which made martyrs, and hence the Secession fathers were worthy of honour for the noble testimony they upheld to Christian truth. They continued in Secession, and were afterwards joined by the Relief Church. They contended for something deeper than mere liberty in the jurisdiction of courts. They contended for the Bible as the true word of God, for the divinity of Christ, and the sufficiency of His Atonement, as that in which all sinners of mankind had an interest; for the living hope of immortality founded on community and conformity with a living Saviour. The Church which those four brethren founded had now 550 ministers with a membership of over 180,000. He concluded by inviting his hearers to preserve and imitate the simplicity, the solidity, and the unselfishness of the first Seceders; if so, that symbol, as it lifted its pinnacle significantly to the sky through future time, would not have been erected in vain.

On the motion of Dr Blair, the thanks of the Synod and of the meeting were given to Miss Bogie for having granted a site for the movement. This was acknowledged on behalf of Miss Bogie, by the Chief Magistrate of Kinross, after which the company dispersed. During the afternoon the memorial-stone of the new church for the first United Presbyterian Congregation was laid by Dr Cairns in presence of a large assemblage.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1884

OUR LOCAL INDUSTRIES – 1883

Dunfermline Linen Trade

In connection with the Dunfermline linen trade, 1882 closed with only fair prospects. The exports to the United States for 1882, as compared with 1881, showed an increase in value of £60,460 18s. This, however, has been more than made up during the first three quarters. The last quarter of 1882 showed a decrease to the extent of £7861, as compared with the corresponding months of the previous year. During the first quarter of the year just closed, United States orders did not improve, and again the returns showed a falling off – the decrease being no less than £13,097 26 6d. The spring orders were disappointing at nearly every work, and for four months ending July the returns stood – 1882, £111,170 8s 2d; and 1883, £100,356 14s 2d – a decrease of £10,813 14s. The financial year closed at the American Consul's office in September 30, and Colonel Myers issued the following comparative statement for six years: -

1878	£225,243. 3s. 3d
1879	£295,151. 11s. 4d
1880	£444,103. 4s. 10d
1881	£388,265. 15s. 11d
1882	£494,099. 12s. 2d
1883	£439,636. 9s. 11d

It will be observed that 1883 showed a falling off when compared with the previous year, of no less than £54,463 2s 2d. Coming now to the last quarter of the year, we find that American orders for cotton goods were not by any means increased. On the contrary there was a disposition on the part of the buyers to make their purchases very select, and the orders for all classes of cotton goods were small. The value of the exports to the States for the quarter ending December stood at £79,430. 9s. 6d, as compared with £130,777. 18s. 10d for the corresponding months of last year – a falling off in value to the extent of £51,346. 9. 4d. With regard to Canada and the Colonies, it must be said that orders were slightly more than plentiful in the spring than they were in the fall of the year. The amount of goods exported to the Colonies is a mere bagatelle as compared with the enormous production. The home trade has kept steady throughout, and the orders placed from month to month at most of the works by the London and Manchester houses will compare favourably with those of the previous years. There is also another satisfactory point connected with the home trade – namely, that the year closed with fair prospects, the tone in all the markets being healthy and reassuring. The extraordinary falling off in goods exported to the United States is continued entirely to coloured cotton damask goods. It is estimated that only one-fourth of the business has been done in this connection during the year with the States, as compared with last year, and nothing has yet been found to supply the place of cotton work. As the result of this, at least 500 cotton looms are standing,

which means that something like 10 per cent. of the whole which were in operation. While manufacturers and employees as well have to face this startling fact, yet it is satisfactory to observe that a proportionate number of hands have not been thrown out of employment. Few, if any, hands are known to be idle, and the only reason that can be assigned to this is the fact that the staple industry of Dundee has been active during the year, and several operatives have consequently sought their way to "Juteland". Wages have not been reduced in any case whatever, and the weekly average drawn by the workers in every department is much the same as on any of the most prosperous years experienced. The reason for the falling off in the orders for cotton goods in the United States is not ill to find. For a number of years back our American cousins have been fully alive to the fact that this was the best profitable department in all the manufactures exported from Dunfermline. Slowly but surely they have increased the power of production in all the manufacturing centres, and now they are in a position to cut prices so fine that Dunfermline and other competitors are almost crushed out of the market. In this they are assisted by an extraordinary tariff – the charge on cotton goods being no less than 40 per cent. wages are, of course, much higher in America, but they have the advantage of cheap cotton. Certainly the almost break down of this department is to be regretted because it has all along proved the most profitable to the worker, and perhaps the employer as well. The result of the American innovation will be that manufactures will have to confine themselves chiefly to the cultivation of the linen trade. At present the operatives are chiefly confined to loom-finished goods, but it is not improbable that manufacturers will be forced to take up the very finest linen trade, which may be stated to be a feature in the North of Ireland and the Continent. The Irish trade, in several instances, is a very fine one, and it requires designs of the very highest art and skilled workmanship to produce articles to compete successfully in several of the factories. We know of nothing, however, to prevent the people of Dunfermline, in a very short time, turning out as fine materials as those produced in the North of Ireland. The stocks on hand are stated to be very heavy. During the year there was a considerable advance quoted on the prices of raw material, but this was more nominal than real, for comparatively little business was done at the advance. Quotations have again, however, fallen to or below their former limit, and it seems now to be probable that it will be possible to buy flax for spring shipment on easier terms than have been obtainable for many years, the flax also being of considerably better quality than for some years past. At the present time, however, the outlook in regard to the sale of yarn is anything but flattering, tow yarns being almost unsaleable even at reduced prices, while flax sorts, although nominally unchanged in value, could not be sold except at a considerable reduction. The bleaching trade also has been bad, and in no case is it believed that the bleachers, who generally act also as yarn merchants, have during the year been able to hold their own, while in the case of one large work the result of the past and former years have been almost disastrous. Complaints have been numerous regarding keen competition for orders, and the low prices that have for some description of goods been accepted; but the cheap prices current for yarns have enabled such orders to be executed without loss, and in the majority of cases with a moderate profit. All things considered, we must admit that the year closes with a much less satisfactory prospect before us than we could desire.

The Fife and Clackmannan Coal Trade.

Next to the linen trade that of mining falls to be mentioned. The year opened with only moderate prospects, and by February so great was the falling off in the shipping department that prices fell considerably and the men were forced to submit to a reduction of 10 per cent. on old rates. In March and April, however, matters improved considerably, and Mr Weir, the zealous secretary of the Miners' Association, began to agitate for the return of the 10 per cent. His appeals for an advance were not, however, responded to until June, and in a short time after this so great was the improvement that another increase was demanded. Shipping prices rose 1s 6d to 2s per ton, and the men agitated for what they considered a fair share of the good times. The frequent appeals, however, were not entertained by the employers, and at a conference held in the end of October it was pointed out that the men were "getting all they were entitled to". The workmen's representatives tried to refute this, but the employers firmly refused to concede any advance, and so the conference closed without any practical outcome, so far as the miners were concerned. An attempt to establish a sliding scale has meantime completely failed. The deducting of half-a-cwt. off the hutch of coals as it is brought to the bank has formed a matter of discussion in the Sheriff Court on several occasions during the year. The men hold that it is illegal to impose standing deductions. Should it be finally determined that all standing deductions are illegal, it is not improbable but "Billy Fiarplay" will be introduced throughout the counties. Trade has been good up to the middle of December, but since the reports from the Continent and elsewhere are discouraging, and the year has closed with anything but bright prospects. The Baltic ports are still open, and it is reported that the consumption is small in consequence of the mild weather, as compared with previous years. We append the following report anent the shipping for the year, which are a fair index of the trade: -

Burntisland Shipping.

The year's coal exports at Burntisland harbour have reached, in round numbers, three quarters of a million tons, and will place the port again in the position of being first in Scotland for the amount of coal shipped direct to foreign ports. The exact figures are 749,784 tons, which are upwards of 80,000 tons ahead of the output of 1882. although the trade has been intermittent during December, the shipments compare also very favourably with the corresponding month of the previous year, the overplus being about 6000 tons. The bulk of coal consignments are for Baltic ports, with a growing trade to France and Spain, and occasionally cargoes to the Mediterranean and America. A large majority of the arrivals were in ballast; but the imports of the year show likewise an increase, cargoes of cotton-seed, maize, esparto grass, linseed, flax, pit-props, straw, and sleepers being the most numerous. As in the statistics of recent years those now demonstrate the absorption of the trade by steamers, and the fast decline of sailing craft – the decrease being 102 during the year. By the erection of a small hoist for the convenience of this class of vessels some advantage will, however, be afforded them during the coming year. A few cargoes have been discharged "coastwise", consisting of slates, oilcake, barley, pavements, &c. Subjoined the shipping of the port, from the monthly returns for 1883, is shown in one view, and the aggregate of the previous year is added for comparison: -

Date	No. of Ships	Steamers	Reg. Tons	Tons Coal
January	24	37	23,547	37,791
February	13	33	17,754	28,064
March	26	47	29,183	48,444
April	43	67	44,966	75,329
May	64	61	45,376	77,175
June	37	68	44,093	76,000
July	43	50	39,154	69,083
August	45	61	40,861	72,944
September	41	45	31,087	55,294
October	48	55	40,656	70,042
November	25	68	44,209	75,012
December	15	58	33,649	46,680
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Totals	426	645	434,535	749,784
1882	528	554	385,075	655,214
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	Decr. 102	Incr. 91	Decr. 4,946	Incr. 84,570

The gradual but substantial growth of the Burntisland shipping is seen from a note of the export trade since the opening of the docks in 1876 – viz., 1876, 190,061 tons; 1877, 230,132; 1878, 368,460; 1879, 470,663; 1880, 460,664; 1881, 625,742. Between £7000 and £8000 has been expended on harbour works during the year, chiefly in the reconstruction of the loading hoists, and further renovations in this way is proceeding. A large extension of siding accommodation for storage of coal laden wagons at the west foreshore has been provided for in the “estimate”, and will, when completed, expedite the dispatch of steam vessels. The extension of the west quay wall is another desiderated improvement in contemplation.

Charlestown Shipping.

At Charlestown the shipments have been as follows: -

	Tons
January	7,525
February	6,138
March	7,001
April	16,639
May	20,585
June	15,080
July	14,837
August	15,953
September	10,460
October	16,185
November	6,757
December	8,975

	146,135

From the following it will be observed that there is a gradual falling off at this port: -
 1877, 140,325 tons; 1878, 161,588; 1879, 192,532; 1880, 196,869; 1881, 176,074;
 1882, 156,566 tons.

EXTENSIVE SHALE MINING OPERATIONS AT WESTFIELD.

A considerable number of years ago a company was formed, more or less connected with other mining operations in Fifeshire, for the purpose of working the shale then known to exist on the farm of Westfield, situated on the estate of Inchdairnie, and two and a half miles from the Cardenden Station of the North British railway.

A “dook” was put down a distance of over two hundred yards at an angle of about 60 degrees, at which distance the shale was reached. In order to ensure drainage of the workings, a shaft was sunk at this point and an engine placed thereon with double acting pumping gear. Retorts were erected for extracting the oil, and operations were fairly proceeded with for some time, but for want of a proper outlet to the markets and other difficulties having arisen the works were brought to a standstill. Fully twelve months ago, however, a new Company (The Westfield Oil Company, Limited) was formed to take over the works and obtain a lease of the minerals. This company was formed with a capital of £25,000, with Mr W.H. Botts as chairman and Mr A Simpson as managing director, both gentlemen belonging to Edinburgh. Since the formation of the company the works have been pushed forward with much energy under the immediate superintendence of Mr Glen, the manager. The old retorts have been removed, and the only such portions of the plant retained as was found serviceable. Two benches of retorts have been erected on the most approved principals, these being supplied by Messrs Anderson & Co., Mussleburgh, while the building as well as that of the erecting of a chimney (over one hundred feet high) was entrusted to Mr Calder of West Calder. These, it may be stated, have been fitted up according to Billbay & Young’s patent, which is considered to be the best process in operation at the present day for extracting the oil – the yield being about 40 gallons per ton. The

same patent has been applied to the apparatus for extracting and distilling the ammonia, which is regarded as a profitable part of the undertaking. The yield in this connection is from 18 to 29 lbs. per ton.

The gas escaping from the retorts is utilised by being converted into naphtha or gas coal, which is only dense after undergoing many ingenious processes, traversing a series of pipes of over 4000 feet.

In addition to the “dook” already in use for raising material, a shaft has been sunk (so as to increase the output) to a depth of 21 fathoms, an engine having been fitted thereon for the double purpose of winding and pumping. A new outlet to the market will now be found in the branch line leading from Kelty Station, which formerly only reached Capledrae Colliery. To obtain this the end, a new mile of railway had to be constructed to complete the system, which will be ready for the locomotive as soon as the new portion is approved of by the Directors. At present there are fully fifty men employed, and many of them are housed at long distances, more houses are in course of erection for their better accommodation.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

1st NOVEMBER, 1884

THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF THE VILLAGE OF COWDENBEATH

EXTENSIVE MINING OPERATIONS.

Fifeshire has been one of the chief centres for mining in Scotland for the past three centuries, and although in several districts the hidden treasures of the earth have been all but worked out, yet it is reassuring to state that the resources are so great that for many years to come coal getting will form one of the chief industries in the county. In the vicinity of Dunfermline, where coal has been worked since 1291 - the days of William de Oberwill - the finest, and consequently most profitable seams are well nigh exhausted, and in perhaps a score of years operations will have been completely suspended at pits which were once the scene of industrial activity. As late as 1873 Dunfermline was justly entitled to be designated the principal mining centre of Fifeshire, but of late the coalfields in the parish of Beith have been so extensively developed by the Cowdenbeath Coal Company, that the City will have at least to divide the honours with the village of Cowdenbeath. In 1870 the outlook at Cowdenbeath was not by any means encouraging. There seemed little life in the work - for a comparatively new one - and the population after many years had reached only 1400. At a time - 1871 - when the powers that were declared that an "angel from heaven" would not make mining in Cowdenbeath a financial success, Mr Henry Mungall, who had had a good training at Whitefield, was appointed as managing partner, and since then the village has grown by leaps and bounds. Gradually the antiquated machinery of former days has given place to machines of the latest invention; the existing pits have been sunk to the lower seams, and that thorough "grip" taken of the coalfields which mining in this advance age demands. Houses have been built for the workmen which, for comfort and accommodation, compares favourably with those of any mining village in Scotland; and to-day the population is considerably above 3000 - more than doubled since 1871. Satisfactory as this may be, Mr Mungall and his company are not prepared to rest on their oars now that the Cowdenbeath Colliery proper has been raised to the point stated, but they have recently taken a step which, as above indicated, will put the Colliery in the position of being one of the most extensive in Scotland.

About two years ago the company purchased the mineral estate of Foulford, and in a very large shaft commenced sinking operations with a view to reach the lower or Dunfermline splint seam. In a remarkable brief space of time - eighteen months - considering the heavy undertaking, the splint coal has been struck at a depth of 150 fathoms. The coal has been found to be of excellent quality, and will compare favourably with anything in Scotland, and is fully 4½ feet in thickness. No fewer than eight seams of coal, amounting in the aggregate in thickness to 50 feet, have been

passed through in the shaft. The coalfield in the vicinity of the shaft amounts to some 300 acres, and as the interruptions by "faults" are supposed to be few, the hold of the various seams will be very extensive. What is exceedingly satisfactory about the sinking operations is the fact that, in this, the most dangerous work connected with the mining industry, the accidents that have occurred have been most trifling. Coupled engines of five hundred horse-power have been erected at the pit-banks for winding the coals to the surface; while the water is drained by a powerful direct-acting pumping engine, whose cylinder is 72 inches in diameter, and works with a 13 feet stroke. The steam is supplied by five steel Galaway tubular high-pressure boilers and the other machinery for the pumping gear, &c., is all on the most approved principles. As has been stated before in the Journal, the Company has also obtained a lease of the minerals at Lumphinnans and have taken over the entire fittings connected with the works carried on by the Lumphinnans Iron and Coal Company. As iron making is an industry which does not pay in Fifeshire, except when pigs are selling at and above 70s per ton, the blast furnaces have been dismantled, but operations have been begun for the further developing of the coalfields. At the "Engine" Pit, heavy pumping gear is being erected, four new boilers similar to those at Foulford are forward, and as soon as circumstances will permit sinking will be begun to the main or lower seams. Here it is expected that the Dunfermline splint will be struck at a depth of 160 fathoms, and the field will extend to at least 700 acres. The little hamlet of Lumphinnans has long been known as a place where specimens of houses could be seen which were not by any means models of convenience, when compared with the houses of this advanced hour of the nineteenth century, and alive to the wants of the people the Cowdenbeath Coal Company have already entered into contracts for adding a room and other conveniences to some fifty-five single huts. This is a step in the right direction, and it is to be hoped that the miners, as well as the coalmasters who are the proprietors of villages, will see it to be their duty to advocate the abolition of the single-roomed custom.

In No 7 pit at Cowdenbeath a cross cut mine has been run to the Lochgelly Splint - a seam, 12 feet 9 in, in thickness. The extent of this field is very large, and as the point where the coal has been struck is a considerable distance from the shaft, a haulage engine is being erected for drawing the minerals to the bottom. The engine is being fitted up near the bottom of the shaft; and, as is the case in connection with all haulage machinery, the roadway is being heightened and made tunnel-like from the beginning to the siding to which the hutches will be conveyed by the "drawers."

It is computed that the area of the coalfields which the company have leased, and now own, will give them an area of minerals before them extending to at least 1800 acres. This means it is estimated that coal amounting to 100,000,000 tons will be got, and will admit of operations being carried on on a very extensive scale for a century to come. The operations of the company will be fairly indicated when we state that their present output reaches the grand total of 1200 tons per day. After the Foulford Pit and the Lumphinnans Works have been set agoing, however, the output will be augmented to the extent of from 500 to 800 tons daily. The Coal Washer recently erected at the colliery has proved quite a success, and Mr Mungall is in communication for the erection of a second machine. The Washer is a machine which subjects chirls - a quality of coal for firing workshop engines - to a thorough process of washing, and

separates the round pieces from the "Beans" - thus making two qualities. So "sensitive" is the machine that all foreign matter, heavier than coal, is thrown aside, so that the coals are entirely free from the material which is damaging to furnaces and boilers. Anticipating that the further developing of the coalfields will necessitate a greater number of workmen, the company have just entered into contracts for the building of a block of houses. The block will join the company's two storey houses in Main Street, and for architectural pretensions and accommodation will completely eclipse anything in Cowdenbeath or in almost any mining village in Scotland. The houses will consist of four apartments each with oriel windows; each of the tenants will have separate entrances, and the advantage of numerous reforms as compared with the hovels of former days. In an article on "The Progress of Cowdenbeath", about a year ago, we took the liberty of suggesting that the workmen should approach Mr Mungall and enlist his support in the founding of a reading-room and library. It is with some degree of satisfaction we state that the hint has not altogether been made in vain. Mr Mungall has taken the initiative in the matter, and has resolved that a reading-room and library should form part of the block of buildings about to be erected. The building will be formally handed over rent free to the workmen, and we understand Mr Smith-Sligo has already promised to present a number of books as a nucleus to the institution.

From what we have above stated, it will be observed that Cowdenbeath is destined to become a mining village of considerable dimensions. By the continual "clank" of the engine, the whistle of the steam from the numerous escapements, and the general surroundings, the stranger cannot fail to be impressed with the idea that in Mr Mungall, the Company have an energetic manager, and that the coal industry of the village is carried on by an industrious class of workmen. As an instance of the truth of the latter statement, it need only be mentioned that not a few of the more modern houses of the village belong to miners. With good trade and the addition of another industry to that of mining, Cowdenbeath has a future before her which few dreamt of half a century before.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

JULY 4th, 1885

DUNFERMLINE IN 1530

Translated from an old manuscript
in the Advocate's Library, Edinburgh.

A correspondent favours us with the following: -

I have much pleasure in sending to you for publication in your paper a translation of an old document relating to Dunfermline in the sixteenth century. It was written in Latin. The legend as to the foundation is curious. I send it as perhaps it may afford pleasure to your readers. I notice there is an error (historical), but it will be better not to change it: -

"Dunfermline, a town in Fife, and owned by the Thane of Fife, Lord de Macduff, stands on one of two hills, which are situated near each other. It contains a large convent, formerly belonging to the Augustine friars, the fine old Palace, built by King Malcolm, and, among many other less important buildings, the "Church of our Saviour", taught by Thomas de Rhomie. As regards the past history of Dunfermline there is little to be gleaned. From a curious old story, related in 'Johanne's Historie de Scotland' we find that Dunfermline was founded by a man named Robert Brintoun, in the third century. The story is as follows: - One day, when Robert Brintoun, forester to the Thane of Fife, was engaged in cutting wood on a hill near the north shore of the Firth of Forth, he accidentally laid open a vein of gold. He at once told his master, and soon a small band of men were set to work to unearth the treasure. Many other people were attracted to the spot, and soon the hill became dotted over with small huts. The Thane of Fife thereupon gave Brintoun power to build a town. He did so and called it Dunichfarlinnhe.

"The town, owing to the rich character of the soil around it, the old manuscript says, became very prosperous, and, indeed, so famous for its wealth, that a convent of Augustine friars was established in it. The power exercised over the people by means of their spiritual influence was very great, and numerous works were executed by them (friars) for their benefit. When the friars decayed the King took possession of their monastery, and having added largely to it, he built a Palace close by. After this the town became very famous in history as the seat of the Scottish Kings, and indeed, up to the present day (1530) the people consider it as their right to receive the Scots King as a dweller in their city. The great King Robert the Bruce, King Edgar, Malcolm, and many others are buried in the ancient Convent or Abbey. Peter Schneck, the writer of 'Trigontia' and Robert Henrison, the poet, belong to Dunfermline. Two years ago considerable fights between two factions in the town occurred, and, indeed, the Provost William Nikol, was killed by a stone thrown at him when he went to the window to disperse the brawlers who were attacking his house."

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15th, 1885.

INTERESTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY AT PITREAVIE.

A Cemetery of the Stone or Bronze Period Found.

One of the most interesting archaeological discoveries which has been reported in Scotland for many years has just been made on the historical grounds of Pitreavie, near Dunfermline. In recent years human remains, leathern bags, and weapons of warfare have been unearthed, which takes us back to July 1651, when Cromwell arrived from "Lothean to Fyffe", and, in the great general's own words, "fatally routed the Scotts" in the battle of Pitreavie. All previous Pitreavie finds, however, sink into insignificance when compared with the group of tumult which to-day is lying bare in a field adjoining the railway bridge, perhaps a couple of hundred yards to the south of Pitreavie Entry. This ancient cemetery takes us back to the ages of prehistoric times, and the relics which have been brought to light must, antiquarians tell us, be identified with either the Stone or Bronze periods. The writer of the historic period finds his materials in books, but, as is well known, the history of the eras mentioned can only be found in ancient burial mounds, deep mosses, &c., and hence it is that everything which can throw light on the dark ages has an interest which cannot possibly surround the times of which a careful record has been left. But to debate the extent of the interest attached to various periods is not the object at view at present, and we address ourselves to the describing of the prehistoric cemetery of Pitreavie, and the circumstances connected with the discovery.

As most of our readers know, Mr Henry Beveridge of St Leonards Works, Dunfermline, recently acquired the estate of Pitreavie at a cost of £50,000, and since he made the purchase the castle has been partially torn down, and a modern frontage is being substituted for the old one. In connection with the work a sand hole was dug in a field a little to the south of the castle, but as the material was not of the "sharp" quality desired the digging was abandoned and operation begun elsewhere. The abandoned sand hole was on Friday last week visited by Mr Evan Cameron, a foreman plate layer on the Queensferry Railway, who from early boy-hood has manifested such an interest in matters archaeological that to-day he is in possession of one of the finest private antiquarian collections to be found in broad Scotland. Mr Cameron has been at the opening of many mounds in the north of Scotland, and the position of a slab which obtruded through the sand, at one of the points where the workmen had ceased to dig, impressed him with the idea that he was in the vicinity of a cemetery of prehistoric times. He had two of his workmen brought from the railway to the spot, and in a few minutes the men had discovered four cists which had formed the graves of people of the primitive eras associated with the words stone and bronze.

Number one cist, Mr Cameron states, was 40 inches in length, 18 inches in breadth, and 16 inches in depth, and was covered with a flag. It was completely filled in with

"worm" mould of much darker colour than the surrounding sand, and about the centre of this rude coffin was found a cinerary urn and a leaf-shaped flint flake or scraper. The urn measures about 5 inches across the mouth, and stands about 6 inches high. It is composed of fine baked clay, and has been dried in the sun, and the dotted lines which surround the bowl indicate the moonlight period of ornamental work wherein are discernible the possibility of still better things.

Number two cist was 42 inches in length, 20 inches in breadth, and 15 inches in depth, and was covered with a flag. The cist was filled with dark mould, and in it was found an urn and a flint scraper with chipped edge. The urn measures 6 inches across the mouth, and stands about 6 inches high (outside measurements), and here again an attempt at ornamentation by incised lines had been made. Near this cist was also found a bottle-shaped piece of limestone, which measures 18 inches in length, is 8 inches in breadth at the one end and five at the other. This stone when unearthed was highly polished. On being exposed to the air, however, this polish disappeared, and a slight washing in the burn close by brought the curious find to the ordinary brown colour of a buried piece of whin or limestone. It is believed that the stone was used as the hammer for breaking the flags by which the cists were formed.

Number three cist measured 41 inches in length, was 16 inches in breadth, and 16 deep, and was uncovered - a state of matters which suggested the idea that the flag had been torn off by a plough or grubber. In this cist an urn 6 inches across the mouth and 5 inches in height (outside measurement) was found.

Number four cist was 42 inches by 18 by 16, and also contained an urn, slightly ornamental, which measured 5 inches across the mouth, and is 5 inches in height. All the urns were found about the centre of the cists, and about four inches from the bottom. Three of them had, through some cause or other, become canted over, and lay at an angle of 45 degrees - a circumstance suggestive of the theory that the contents of the cist had undergone a change since the rude burial had taken place.

Mr Cameron gave each of his workmen an urn, and urn number four, the peculiar piece of limestone, and a flint scraper fell into the hands of the forester of the estate. No bones were found in either of these four cists.

It was not until Tuesday night that Mr Beveridge heard of the discovery, and he at once employed some of his men to collect the relics and make every possible enquiry about the discovery. Mr Cameron and his men, however, indicated that they would stick to the urns until the matter had, as one put it "been properly gone about;" and on Thursday Mr Beveridge placed the whole affair in the hands of Mr Ross, his solicitor, Mr Ross had soon the whole facts connected with the find at his finger ends, and in the afternoon he, along with Mr Carnegie, Lord-Provost Harrison, Edinburgh, Provost Donald, Mr George Robertson, F.S.A., Scot., and Mr George Lauder visited the burial mound. All the members of the party manifested a great amount of interest in the open cists, and as was to be expected, what was seen only increased the anxiety the more to get hold of the missing urns. In the evening Mr Ross called upon Mr Cameron, and was at once presented with one of the pottery bowls, receiving at the same time an assurance that the other two would be forthcoming the following day.

Another Cist Discovered.

On Thursday Mr Beveridge had a number of workmen digging at the tumuli in search of more graves, and only one other cist was found, which was about 18 inches square. In this cist no urn was found, but, strange to say, that in the centre of the mould were found several pieces of bone. The absence of the urn, and the fact that horse and dog bones keep for a much longer period than those of human bones, and the size of the cist, go to give credence to the idea that this grave must have been that of a favourite dog. The skeletons of the dog and horse, archaeological men tell us, have been again and again found in mounds where no traces of human bones could be seen, and from this it is argued that the bones of animals are more enduring than those of man. As bearing on this point the following paragraph, which we quote from Mackenzie's History of Scotland, may be read with interest: -

"Had this ancient race of the Stone or Bronze period any idea of religion and a future state? We shall see. Here is an earthen mound heaped over the grave of some chief. When dug into, it is found to contain a rude stone coffin. In the coffin with the skeleton are flint arrow-heads, a spear-head also of flint, and perhaps the stone head of a battle-axe, the wooden portions of these weapons having long since mouldered away. Now we know that the savage expects to go after death to the happy-hunting grounds, and to follow again the warpath. His implements of war and the chase are therefore buried with him, that he may start up fully equipped in the new state of being. His favourite horse or dog, and perhaps his favourite attendants, are laid beside his grave, that at his rising he may appear in a manner fitting his rank. The contents of the burial mound unmistakably proclaim that our forefathers in these long-forgotten ages had the same rude idea of the future state which the Red Indian still has. Many of these burials mounds have been opened in different parts of Scotland. Their contents are very similar. Sometimes a heap of flint flakes, for making a new supply of arrows when his quiver should be empty, is found along with the warriors bones. Sometime his drinking-cup, of unshapely sun-dried clay, and a bowl of the same material, which had probably contained food, lie beside him, as loving hands had put them for his use on his long journey. Sometimes a number of rude clay urns, filled with calcined human bones, had been placed besides the warrior's coffin, and then the sepulchral mound heaped high over all. This conveys a dark hint his favourite retainers had been slaughtered, and sent to attend him in the spirit-land. During this ancient period Scotland was covered with vast forests, as the trunks of great trees found buried in our mosses sufficiently testify. The inhabitants must have been thinly scattered along the skirts of the mighty range of forest. They must have occupied the coast and river valleys, retreating to the heights or the dark recesses of the forest when beaten or outnumbered by the war-party of some neighbouring tribe. Geology has proved, from the frequent discovery of their remains, that wild horses, wolves, bears, a kind of tiger - more powerful than that of India - the huge native bull, the elk, and the rein-deer, ranged the woods. The beaver built its coffer-dams in the streams. On these inhabitants of the forest, the ancient Briton waged war with bow and sling, with lance and trap. Their skins furnished them with clothing. Their flesh, together with wild fruits and berries, shell fish gathered along the shore at ebb of tide, the scanty produce of his corn patch, and the milk of his flock supplied him with food".

The Antiquarian Society And The Find.

Yesterday Provost Donald and Mr George Robertson journeyed to Edinburgh, and reported the find to the council of the Antiquarian Society. In Edinburgh they met Dr Munro, Kilmarnock, author of "Ancient Scottish Lake Dwellings," and at once the doctor set out with the Provost and Mr Robertson, for the tumuli. The doctor is an expert in such investigations, and he was much interested in the discovery. He took exact measurements of the ground and of the various cists and urns, and his inquiries will be communicated to the society. He considers the discovery the most complete, and most important, which has taken place in recent time. It is impossible to assign a date to the burials represented by these urns; all that can as yet be said is that they are of the prehistoric period, and certainly more than 2000 years old. Very likely there were originally many more of the cists, but lying so near the entrance, they would probably, in the course of ages, be turned up by the plough or the spade. The site is one which until about 60 years ago was occupied by two cottages and a garden, of which now there is not a vestige. The wife of a farmer residing at Pitreavie Entry, near to the site, was born in one of these houses, and she remembers a tradition that the garden was an old burying-ground. Only now is it explained to her in what the tradition was founded. Very probably it is a lingering story of some companion urns turning up in the garden. The experts of the Antiquarian Society will probably ere long throw some further light upon this mysterious burial place, but meanwhile we must be content with speculating at our sweet will on these our venerable ancestors as they, mayhap, when they designed their urns and cists speculated upon those who would live after them; each with the same fullness of knowledge. Speculations as to other burial places which are said to exist on the same farm, especially that of a very ancient and mysterious king, whose place of burial is known to the thrifty farmer, but he decides not to disclose it until the corn is off the ground.

Dr Anderson of the Antiquarian Museum, Edinburgh, is presently from home, and explains his non-appearance at the tumuli ere this.

The Urns

All the four urns were last night placed in the hands of Mr Ross, but there are still grounds for believing that other parties than Mr Cameron have been making explorations and have discovered urns. From bearings made in the earth with heavy iron "pinches" it is assumed that many cists are yet to be found. The explorations will accordingly be continued by Mr Cameron, than whom a better man could not be found, being chief of the staff.

Earlier Discoveries in the District.

A discovery of the same nature was made in Craigdhu on 25th May, 1857. At this date (several?) cists were found, and in the largest fragments of a large urn were discovered. Within the large urn a small cup-shaped urn was found.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL
SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 1885.

DISCOVERY OF ANOTHER CEMETERY
ON PITREAVIE ESTATE

A discovery of another ancient burial place has just been made on the historical estate of Pitreavie, near Dunfermline, which rivals in interest that which occurred on the same estate a few weeks ago. The locality of the mound which has now been opened is fully two miles to the north-east of the site of the former discovery, and is within, but close to, the borders of the plantation on the large moorland known as Calais Muir. The forester and other workmen on the estate were on Monday engaged in collecting rough stones to form part of an embankment, when it was noticed that the stones they were gathering lay in the mossy soil in the form of a large circle. On further examining the ground it was seen that it was a portion of a large mound, partly natural, and about 200 feet in diameter. This mound slopes gently up from the flat ground of the plantation, and is covered with trees. The circle of rough stones radiates about 20 feet from the centre or highest point of the mound, it was found, after piercing through a foot of peaty soil, that the mound proper was composed of a soft yellow sand. About 36 inches below the surface, and exactly in the centre of the mound, a strongly constructed short cist was discovered. The cist lies north and south, and is formed of massive stone slabs. It measures inside 42 inches long, 26 inches wide, and 22 inches deep. It was covered with a flat stone of great weight, measuring 48 inches long, 36 inches wide, and 10 inches thick, and was three parts filled with a dark mould. In the cist was a beautifully-formed urn of the food-vessel type, measuring 5 inches high and 6 inches wide at the mouth. It is neatly ornamented with short incised lines, forming a pattern; and round the widest part, at equal distances, are eight knob-like protuberances. There was nothing in this urn but soil, but in the cist there lay a few large calcined bones.

On Tuesday the spot was visited by Mr H. Beveridge, the proprietor, with Mr Ross, solicitor, and Mr George Robertson, F.S.A. Scot. In their presence explorations were made all round the cist and within the stone circle, resulting in the discovery, in various positions, of another seven urns. These are all of the cinerary type, and six of them stood on their bottoms. In the case of the seventh, it was inverted over one of the others, forming a cover. All the urns outside the cist contained calcined human bones and much vegetable charcoal, both in dust and in pieces. One of the urns, which is a fine specimen, standing fully twelve inches high, was covered with a flat stone laid on the top. This had to a certain extent the effect of excluding the soil and moisture, so that the burnt bones with which the urn is filled are in a beautifully clean state. In addition to the burnt bones found in the urns, there were many detached collections of bones and charcoal lying all around, where evidently interments had been made without urns, or these had been come upon and destroyed at former times. Mr Robertson, as representing the Society of Antiquarians of Scotland, has made a sketch plan of the ground and the position of the cist and urns, and all further operations will be superintended with the utmost care.

On Wednesday afternoon, while the workmen were engaged in the work of excavation they discovered another four urns a short distance from the cist. They all contained calcined bones in a remarkably good state of preservation, and were surrounded by some fine dark coloured mould. They are all of the cinerary type, and are fine specimens of prehistoric art, being ornamented with varied designs formed by oblique lines and dots on the upper part, with encircling projecting rings at the widest circumferences. During the operations it was found necessary to remove two large trees, the roots having so penetrated the soil in some of the urns as to render the safe extraction of these a work of much care and difficulty.

As to the whole course of the excavations, too much praise cannot be given to Mr Gray, the forester on the estate, and his assistants, they having all along shown great interest in the proceedings, and gone about the explorations with much spirit and intelligence.

A description of the find has been forwarded to Dr Anderson, curator of the Antiquarian Museum, Edinburgh, whose speciality as an expert in this sort of archaeology is well known and unrivalled.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL
SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1885.

ABERDOUR AND INCHCOLME.

(First Notice)

This is a course of lectures delivered to the inhabitants of Aberdour over twenty years ago by the Rev. Dr Ross while minister there, and is now published with some additions. "Being written as lectures, they do not offer," says the author, "to the confirmed antiquary the minute details and constant reference to authorities which his habit of mind demands; and to very grave people the little pleasantries which occur may appear trifling. But such readers will be good enough to bear in mind the audiences to whom the lectures were originally adapted, and they will find that what lightened the task of listening to historical details has also made the reading of them more easy." His object was "not to exhibit the great natural beauty and rich historical interest of the neighbourhood with which he has been dealing, but also to advance the cause of morality and religion;" and for this purpose every available source has been ransacked with the zest of the antiquary, the patient skill of the historian, and a strong desire to learn from these bygone times such lessons as they are well calculated to teach. Old charters and mouldy documents, kirk-session records and diaries, monumental inscriptions and architectural ruins, the recollections of old residents - these are some of the sources whence his materials have been gathered.

The book may be said to open with an interesting description of the old church of Aberdour. In early times, however, there was also a chapel at a place called Beaupre ("the beautiful meadow"), now Bowprie. This is mentioned as far back as 1320, and it was known as the Grange of Beaupre - very possibly being a farm place, belonging to the monastery, where they stored the grain. The old church itself was dedicated to St Fillan, who was at one time Abbot of Pittenweem in the seventh century, and who died in a hermitage in Glenorchy. He was a very remarkable man, evidently. "While engaged in writing, his left arm on the parchment emitted so brilliant a light that, in the darkest nights, a candle or a lamp was to him quite a superfluity; and, as he was a late sitter, this arm of his must have proved a great saving to the convent; although, of course, it could not be so conveniently carried about for the general behoof as a lamp could ... The virtues of his luminous arm, if we may believe the chroniclers, did not pass away with his life. It was deemed worthy of being placed in a silver shrine after the good man had no more personal need of it. It is well known that King Robert the Bruce had a great reverence for the memory of St Fillan, and his silver shrine was carried at the head of his army to the field of Bannockburn. I have intentionally said 'the shrine'; but there can be no doubt that both the king and the saint intended that the arm should be in it. Maurice, Abbot of Inchaffray, afterwards Bishop of Dunblane, was however, a man of considerably less faith than Bruce was; and thinking it a possible thing that the casket might fall into the hands of the English, he, keeping the secret meanwhile to himself, deposited the arm in a place of safety at a distance from the battlefield, and with much pawky coolness marched before the army with the

empty casket. In the heat of the battle the Bruce is said to have uttered a hasty prayer to the saint, turning his eye meanwhile to the casket, little dreaming it was empty. The Abbot retained his gravity, but the saint could stand the deception no longer. Was the Bruce to risk his life and limb, and his kingdom to boot, on the issue of the battle; and was St Fillan to connive with the cowardice of being afraid to risk his dead arm, or be guilty of the meanness of pretending that he ran the risk? The thing was not for a moment to be thought of. The Bruce's prayer was hardly uttered when the lid of the casket was observed to open suddenly, and as suddenly to close with a click. The battle was won, and Scotland was free; and, when the casket was opened, in it lay the arm of St Fillan!"

The church being thus named after St Fillan we expect to find a well in the vicinity to which pilgrims will resort; and this was precisely the case, for the hospital of St Martha owed its very existence to this well. The hospital stood on the site of the old manse in the eastern village, and was built in 1474 for the lodging of the pilgrims by Sir John Scot, vicar of Aberdour, assisted by the first Earl of Morton, who gave an acre of land for the buildings, then three acres, then four, stipulating that the vicar and the pilgrims should daily pray for him, "his ancestors, successors, and benefactors, and all the faithful dead." "Regularly as the hour of noon came round the poor persons and pilgrims who found shelter within its walls were to assemble in the chapel of the hospital, after the ringing of the bell, and there, on bended knees, were devotedly to repeat five Paternosters and five Ave Marias." A little later, in 1487, by a Bull from the Pope, certain nuns of the Order of St Francis were installed in the hospital to care for the poor travellers. At the Reformation, when much of the land and endowments changed hands, the eight acres above referred to again came into the possession of the Morton's.

Speaking of the Morton's (a branch of the Douglas family) leads us to note that Dr Ross in his researches has discovered that the barony of Aberdour belonged five hundred years ago to Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, and nephew of Robert the Bruce. As every schoolboy knows, it was Randolph who brought the body of the good Lord Douglas from Spain, and the casket containing Bruce's heart. He then made over to the monks of the Abbey of Dunfermline the lands of Cullalo, at that time part of his barony of Aberdour, to secure prayers for his uncle, his ancestors, and successors. He also gave the lands of Bandrum and Kinneddar for a similar service to be done for himself. Following the records, we next find that his son John granted Aberdour to the Douglas family in 1341. A very able sketch is given of the state of Scotland during the troublous times of Regent Moray, natural son of James V., and step-brother to our own Queen Mary, to whose commanding influence, manly integrity, and force of character this country owes so much. The marriage-settlement of this nobleman and Annas Keith, daughter of the Earl of Marischal is in the charter room of Donibristle. We are informed that John Knox preached the marriage sermon in St Giles, and, complimenting Lord James on the splendid services he had rendered to the reformed party, advised him "to hold unwaveringly in case those who detected any failure should say it was his wife's fault!" Created Earl of Mar by the Queen, he was sent to the south to quell the lawlessness that ever seemed rampant there. After "no fewer than fifty-three outlaws were apprehended in the town of Hawick, of whom eighteen were instantly drowned, 'for lack of trees and halters', and six were hanged at

Edinburgh," we are not surprised to learn that the border country was speedily "quieter than it had for long been known to be."

The portions dealing with the various clergy who officiated or not in the district are sometimes very amusing. Of a certain Mr Paton, for example, who had the care of several parishes on his shoulders we are told by Mr Ross that his "skill and dexteritie was known to be far greater in making of skulls (a kind of coarse basket), nor either in praying or preaching". Under easy-minded shepherds the flocks of Aberdour, Dalgety, and Beath (which were conjoined) were in a sad way, "verie paganes" indeed. The Kirk of Beath - this is about the middle of the seventeenth century - "in some sort myght be compared to Gideon's fleece, which was dry when all the earth was watered, When all the congregations of Fife were planted, this poor Kirk was neglected and overlooked, and lay desolate then fourteen yeares, after the Reformation eighty yeares - the poore parochiners being always like wandering sheep without a shepherd. And whereas they should have conveyned to hear a pastoure preich, the principall cause of the people's meetinge wes to hear a pyper play, upon the Lord's daye, which was the day of their profane mirth, not being at the workes of their calling. Which was the cause that Sathan had a most fair name amongst them, stirring many of them up to dancing, playing at football, and excessive drinking, falling out and wounding one another, which wes the exercise of the younger sort; and the older sort played at gems, and the workis of their calling, without any distinction of the weeke day from the day of the Lord. And thus they continued, as said is, the space of eighty years; this poor Kirk being always neglected, became a sheepe-hous in the night." But we shall return to this again.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL
SATURDAY, AUGUST 8th 1885.

ABERDOUR AND INCHCOLME.

(Second Notice)

From the time of the Reformation a triad of services was held on the Sundays. At eight o'clock the church bell summoned the people to hear the Bible read by the Reader. At ten it rang again for reading and prayer, and the regular service for devotional exercises and preaching began after the third ringing at eleven. Great ignorance was abroad; Bibles were scarce and costly to such a degree that "the purchase of a pulpit Bible was sometimes a work that demanded careful attention. Thus in 1668 it is recorded that the Kirk-Session of Aberdour have 'several times before been thinking of how they may attain a kirk Bible.' To secure this end they resolved on making a collection at the kirk door, in basins, by Hugh Abercrombie, Robert Roch, and John McKie. This collection amounted to £19 Scots. Hugh Abercrombie was appointed to make the purchase, which probably entailed a voyage across the Firth; and having secured the desired kirk Bible for £18. 18s, the session returned him 'very many thanks for his diligence'".

Those who absented themselves from public worship or behaved riotously were looked after by the elders appointed to this very necessary duty. We read, for instance, of Henry Tyrie being summoned before his betters on August 21st, 1649. "The said Henry compears, and, being challenged for his not coming to the kirk, is found guiltie. Therefore, being his first fault, the Session has only admonished him not to do the like; and, if he be ever found in the like, to be punished exemplarly." Again, "John and William Hutson in visiting the town fand that John Forfair and his wife was drinking in James Oroock's." In June 1650 three men were "summoned before the Session for going out of the church during service, and were admonished not to do the like again." An other two were censured "for going up and down the walk during divine service". In 1652 four worthies for "making din in the church in the time of devine service" were ordered "to sit down on their knees and crave God mercie for their fault;" and it was ordained further that "if every found in the like, they will be set in the joggers and banished the town."

These elders certainly led no idle life. Each had his special district to supervise, and was expected to see that the inhabitants attended church, and to note such as swore, drank, fought, "flytet", &c. Hence we read that "the Session ordains Walter Flooker's wife and Christine Ritchie's mother to be summoned for drinking during the time of devine service." Janet Taylor on being brought to trial admits she was the worse of drink, but ingenuously pleads that, not being accustomed to it, "a little ran in her head." Hugh Bailzie (once an elder, alas!) must have been what Artemus Ward called "a festive cuss". He "got a word" from the minister regarding some disturbance in his hostelry at Easter Aberdour, and a hint that his office will be taken from him if there is no amendment. He promises better things; but rumour soon rises up that his

servants have actually brought up a pipe of wine from the Whitesands on a Sunday morning! How can an elder explain this awful discretion? How can he hold his head up again? His excuse is that if the wine had lain all day "beeking" in the sun it would have spoiled; and this appealed so strongly to the hearts of his judges that they dismissed the case with a slight admonition. A short time after, Hugh is once more in a fix. The Session had collected materials for building a school; and, as Hugh had some building of his own just then, he helps himself to some of the stones and lime, in spite of the remonstrance's of some of his fellow-members, intending of course to repay what he may use. Again he appears ere he is relieved of the responsibilities of his eldership; for we read that at a meeting of Session the minister sternly asks those present if they are aware that one of their number was lately so drunk that he was unable to find his way home without assistance. None of them had heard of such a shameful thing; their eyes instinctively turn in the direction of Hugh, who, being interrogated, confesses his guilt with sorrow, is fined 40s, and on his knees craves "God mercie for the said vice and for being an ill example to others".

In some cases the surveillance on the part of the elders over the erring and disobedient was not fully appreciated by those who were subjected to it. Robert Young, for example, was summoned several times for keeping his mill going on Sundays; and, exasperated beyond measure by this continual interference, he gives vent to his feeling of indignation by exclaiming that "it wes never a good world since there wes so many Sessions." Even a worm, as we know, will turn; but Robert did not reap much advantage by so expressing himself, for he was again brought before his betters and "rebuked sharply," because he had thus spoken of those who were anxious and determined to guide him into the right path and to see that he did not stray there from.

John Lochtie was another character who caused much trouble to his spiritual overseers. His supreme pleasure in life was to surround himself with some cronies, drink himself "foo", and insist on his example being followed. His fame rested on foundations so firm that if it were reported that John was in a certain district, everybody knew, without asking, that a glorious carousal was in progress. He is made to stand before the pulpit to confess his failing, has to find security to the extent of £10, and is plainly told that, if in the same condition again, he will be banished from the town. A few months pass and John is not as he should be; so two of the elders are sent "to the browsters to discharge them selling him any ail, except small drink; which they agree to." Six years after, he engages "not to drink ail of any kind for the space of a year."

Many other items might be chosen from the book, but we forbear. Regarding its appearance it is sufficient to state that it is printed by Messrs Constable and published by Mr David Douglas, Edinburgh.

By the Rev. W. Ross, I.L.D. Edinburgh: David Douglas. 1885.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL
SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 1885.

ROSYTH CASTLE.

A TALE OF THE TIME OF QUEEN MARY.

Every schoolboy knows, or, at least, ought to know, the principal events of the reign of our beautiful but fated Queen Mary. Everyone knows the circumstances of her struggles against the nobles of Scotland - of the battle of Carberry - of her imprisonment and escape from Lochleven - of the battle of Langside, and of her terrible death at the hands of the headsman in England, caused by her cousin Elizabeth. This story is but one of Mary's many though forgotten adventures which she encountered during her eventful life.

A week after Queen Mary escaped from Lochleven Castle in Kinross-shire, she entered Fife from the west with a large retinue of ladies, lords, and their retainers in order to raise troops to help her regain the Scottish throne, which she had abdicated some time before. Her presence inspired the people wherever she went, and soon she had a large force under her command. When she reached Dunfermline the enthusiasm of the inhabitants was unbounded; and, as the Royal Palace was not large enough to receive all her suite, the best quarters in the town were readily bestowed upon them, besides numerous private houses for the train-bands.

Queen Mary, however, did not sleep in the town, for Lord Stuart Rosyth had giving her such a pressing invitation to be his guest that she could not refuse. Accompanied by Lord Seton, Sir George Douglas, and a few devoted attendants, she set out from Dunfermline, and by easy riding arrived at Rosyth by Noon.

Lord Stuart and his lady received her with all due honour at the castle gate. A splendid suite of apartments were set apart for the Queen, and after she had dressed for dinner, she was conducted (as was the custom in these old days) into the dinning hall by the lord of the castle - his lady being led in by Lord Seton. The cheer of the castle was good, purveyed in true Scotch style, and Mary was very pleased by her reception. Late in the afternoon, Lord Stuart, Lord Seton, and Douglas, with all their retainers, set out on a deer chase in the wide domain of Rosyth.

Mary also went with them, but after one deer had been killed she returned, as the shades of evening had begun to fall. When the time for return of the Lords from the chase came round, no signs of their approach could be seen, even from the highest point of the castle. Mary and Lady Stuart became alarmed, and, fearing they had lost their way in the thick woods, the beacons of the castle were lighted to light the way home. Some men-at-arms were also sent to search for them.

About midnight a young soldier arrived from Dunfermline, bearing a despatch from Seton to Mary, which announced they would not be able to return to Rosyth till morning, as they had gone to quell a riot in the town.

The searchers were called in, and soon all retired to rest save the two solitary watchers of the keep. Shortly after twelve o'clock the silence of the night was rudely broken by a loud shrieking, which evidently issued from the Queen's apartments. All the inmates of the castle were aroused, and Lady Stuart, who hurriedly dressed when she heard the noise, came out to enquire what the cause of it was.

The few retainers and servants, who had been left behind from the chase, were gathered together in a group in a corner near the gate; but the Queen was not among them.

Whenever Lady Stuart was seen approaching, every voice was hushed, and she called upon the Captain of the Foot to give an explanation of the noise. With an excited air, he told her that a ghost had taken possession of Queen Mary's rooms, and, while apparently murdering her, had give utterance to the dreadful yells which had alarmed the whole castle.

Lady Stuart was perplexed at the story, and was in doubt what she should do; for, although she had been educated in the enlightened France of these days, she was as superstitious as her servants.

Not having the courage to enter Mary's apartments herself, she offered a large sum of money to anyone who would go to drive away the ghost. No one would venture, and the Queen seemed hopelessly lost. Help, however, was not far off.

Sir David Wardlaw of the neighbouring estate of Pitreavie happened at this crisis to be passing the castle gate. He had been at Edinburgh during the day, and was riding home along the shore from the Ferry. Wondering why so many persons were collected in the courtyard at such an early hour, he called out for the keeper of the gate.

When Lady Stuart heard his voice (for he was a trusted friend), she ran to the gate quickly, and ordered the portcullis to be raised, the drawbridge to be lowered.

Sir David Dismounted from his horse, and throwing its bridle to his page, he walked over the drawbridge into the courtyard. Hardly had he saluted Lady Stuart when, with tears in her eyes, she told him of the danger Queen Mary was in. He at once asked where the Queen slept. She told him. Seizing a torch and calling on his huge retriever to follow him, he walked straight up the passage which led to the room. When he turned the bend of the passage he saw standing in front of the door a tall white figure with a black head, which uttered loud screams at short intervals.

Unmoved by the sight, he paced steadily on, the nearer he approached the louder the croaking became. Suddenly Sir David saw that the black head was a bird, and the long white body the tapestry or screen which Mary's attendant had neglected to draw

before the door when she retired to rest.

The retriever made a spring at the bird, but it escaped, and brushing past Sir David's face, flew outside with loud skreeching.

Sir David having thus vanquished the ghost, returned to the open air; but to his surprise, he found the castle deserted. All had fled, when, in the dim torch light, they saw the bird fly out and come towards them. Sir David discovered them some distance away from the castle walls, and after having quieted their fears, bade adieu to Lady Stuart, he resumed his journey.

As Mary had not been disturbed in her slumbers by the uproar they all retired, and quietness reigned over the scene once more. When Mary arose, the morning's adventure was related to her. Long and loud did she laugh when each little point had been recorded to her, and great was her praise of Sir David Wardlaw for his pluck. She told them that the bird was her favourite parrot, and usually slept in her room, but having been accidentally shut out, it had made the noise in order to awaken her. As the door of her room was padded not a sound had she heard.

When Lord Stuart, Lord Seton and Douglas returned to the castle they were very much amused upon hearing the alarm the parrot had caused, and on the following day Lord Seton, by the express command of the Queen, carried her thanks to Wardlaw for his conduct.

Sir David Afterwards received the estate of Balmule from James I. of England, Mary's son, for his bravery on behalf of his mother.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 24th, 1886

DUNFERMLINE BURGH MINERALS.

PLAN FOR EXHAUSTING FLOODED AND OTHER FIELDS

Believing that there is no subject which is of greater local interest to the people of Dunfermline than that of the Burgh minerals, we have employed a Special Commissioner to take a "Pisgah" view of the pieces of coal which some people consider to be hopelessly abandoned, and as a practical man to place on record his views on the subject. It must be admitted that the prospects in connection with the Burgh minerals are not bright at present, and the seams of burgh coal in some of the pits justify the many economic warnings we have of late given in these columns. Seeing that "dykes" and "faults" are playing sad havoc with the seams which are being worked at present, we thought it right to enquire into the position of the broad acres of coal which stand to-day flooded with water into the Muircockhall pits, and also into the circumstances which surround certain pieces of coal which are left as barriers or colliery march walls. Having gone a certain length with our enquiry, we came to the conclusion that it was best to hand the whole thing over to an independent practical man, and from his hand we are favoured with a report which we make bold to say will prove of interest to every ratepayer in Dunfermline. Here is the Commissioners report: -

No Personal Interest.

The task which the Editor of the 'Journal' has been kind enough to place into my hands is the most difficult I have ever been asked to face, but in view of the interest which he has shown in the question of late, I think would disgrace his enterprising spirit had I met his request by a direct negative. In reporting upon the points submitted to me, I wish at the outset to disclaim having any personal interest in the matter, and I write without favour or prejudice to any coalmaster, landed proprietor, or miner, presently interested in the extraction of the minerals of the district. As an ordinary correspondent I give my opinions, and for that opinion I am alone responsible. I do not ask the 'Journal' to in any way support my views. I give my report, and while I am prepared to prove, and prove to the hilt, the practicability of every scheme I propose, I give the Editor of the 'Journal', the people of Dunfermline, and all interested in the working of the minerals, the liberty, if they choose, of characterising the whole thing as a dream.

The Seams of Coal of The District.

The subject is beset with many difficulties, and my views regarding it can only be presented from the standpoint with what I am somewhat familiar. The famous Dunfermline splint is the lowermost workable seam in the county of Fife. The five-

foot is found at a less depth from five to ten fathoms. These seams are sometimes struck quite near the surface, while in other cases the sinking operations have to be pursued to the enormous depth of nearly 150 fathoms, as may be seen at Hill of Beath and Cowdenbeath Collieries. The difference in position is accounted for by serious depressions which arise from dislocations in the strata. The higher formations of the strata, also with several other seams in superposition, have been previously carried away by the demanding influence of the ocean currents which at one time no doubt rolled over the open space now occupied by the inhabitants of Scotland. The mountain limestone formation divides the lower from the true or upper coal measures. The lower strata contains no useful coal, hence the reason why boring or sinking operations are generally stopped when this limestone is struck in Fifeshire. Well then, what has been done? and what may now be done with the matter as it affects the interests of Dunfermline?

The Queen Pit Engine Stoppage.

It will, I dare say, be the remembrance of some of the older members of the Council that a proposal was made a few years ago by Mr Wallace, of Halbeath, to keep in motion the large pumping engine at the Queen pit, Halbeath Colliery, which works at a depth of 90 fathoms. This was merely as a means of drainage, and it was suggested that the engine should be kept going on the understanding that all other parties immediately connected with the coal operations in the surrounding district should bear a proportionate share of the expense incurred in doing so. This, although a very important proposition - more important than most people were aware of - was somehow or other not agreed to. The stoppage of the Queen pit engine soon led to the powerful pumping engine on the Eliza pit, which drained an enormous breadth of workings even at a lower depth, being brought to a standstill as well. The water subsequently rose, as it was bound to do, in the entire workings in the neighbourhood. As the crow flies, the Eliza pit is situated only half-a-mile from the Muircockhall pits, and the great volume of water - a stretch of miles - soon passed through the perforated strata and flooded the more valuable part of the workings of the Muircockhall Colliery. I refer to this to show, (1) that an agreement ought to have been entered into with Mr Wallace to keep the Queen pit engine going at the joint expense of all the landlords and coalmasters in the district. (2) to show that the rejection of the overtures to keep the engine going was a blunder; and (3) to show that if an effort is to be made to gain the flooded coalfields, Mr Wallace presently, as he was six years ago, is in possession of the key of the whole situation. Mr Wallace's pits are at a deeper level than any other in the district, and lie contiguous to a considerable portion of the burgh minerals.

How To Get Out The Barriers.

I wish to centre attention on this part of the estate again, but before doing so, however, let me refer to the barriers of coal now being left in between the workings at No. 1 Pit, Kingseat, and the down mine at Muirbeath. These barriers may amount to about 70,000 tons, including splint and five-foot, and are being left, I suppose, to guard against a sudden inburst of water. This is all very good, but I think that these barriers may be taken out, as they will never prevent water from percolating slowly into the

Kingseat waste or coal. The coal would require to be taken out at the Kingseat side. Nothing else would do. The system pursued by the managing staff is, I should think, sufficient to prevent Loch Fitty from bursting in, as the waste between the roadways is packed through and through - a system which offers resistance to an immediate subsidence, and enables the strata so far to rebind itself in the settling down process. If these ideas be correct, then now is the time to come to terms. The five-foot main road of the Kingseat pit remains open, and the splint is probably not yet beyond all repair. It is no simple matter to put in working order a horse roadway nearly half-a-mile long, and delay in the present case is a most dangerous policy to pursue.

A New Coalfield.

Let me now speak of the extensive and somewhat unexplored field in the possession of the burgh which lies between Kingseat and the old Halbeath Colliery. This is the coalfield which must attract attention in the future. There is undoubtedly a series of dykes or dislocations, disturbing a portion of this field, running diagonally across the country from the south end of the village northwest in the direction of the Higholm pits. That has very likely had the effect of forming a heavy depression, putting the splint down to a depth of from 150 to 160 fathoms, shunting the coal more to the south, and rising from the base of the dykes towards the Eliza and Muircockhall pits. If these conjectures are right it is not improbable but that the best way to take out this coal would be from the south side. That would necessitate the pumping out the water from the Eliza pit, a most extraordinary undertaking no doubt when one thinks of the immense subterranean deluge that exists there, stretching for miles, including 6 or 7 disused collieries with their wide ramifications. All this is not impossible however. Ponderous pumping machinery placed in the Eliza pit would be equal to the task, and if every party interested, Mr Wallace, the Dunfermline Coal Company, the Burgh of Dunfermline, and others were jointly to put their shoulder to the wheel the drainage work could be executed. The water taken out, cross-cut mines could be struck away from the bottom of the Eliza Pit, and No. 1 Pit, Muircockhall, dipping north-east for a distance of 500 or 600 yards, which would be enough to get a hold of this seemingly valuable and unbroken section of the burgh coal. The whole thing would then be ransacked and tested, and the valuable coal presently drowned in Muircockhall could be extracted by the Dunfermline Coal Company. The most valuable portion of the Dunfermline Coal Coy.'s seams at Muircockhall were cut off by water, and if the company were to combine with Mr Wallace in a great drainage scheme, the burgh must face the problem of giving assistance. The Dunfermline Coal Coy. have had a most perplexing field to work, and if my suppositions are right, the tunnels I speak of would give them and Mr Wallace a hold of coal which would be profitable to all concerned. The depth the splint is found at generally has the effect of preserving more intact the upper seam. Working the upper seams with the superior seams further down at the same time would probably give a good mineral revenue for Dunfermline for another 30 or 50 years to come. Now, these views may or may not be correct. Mr Carlow and Mr Cook, of Kingseat Colliery, and Mr Birrell, of the Dunfermline Coal Company, are the men most capable here about, if I may be allowed to say so, of judging the statements I make.

Summary of Proposals.

In brief, what I propose is (1) out with the barriers between Kingseat and Higholm pits at once; (2) the various parties interested to agree to a great pumping scheme, and Mr Wallace and the Dunfermline Coal Coy. would get the coal presently drowned with water; and (3) explore the new field which, if not torn to atoms by the erratic movements of dykes, should yield a great output of coal for years to come.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th, 1886

THE VILLAGE OF COWDENBEATH

CONTINUED PROGRESS - NEW INDUSTRY

It is now nearly two years since we devoted a somewhat lengthy article to the "Rise and Progress of the Village of Cowdenbeath," and at that time we pointed to many schemes which the Cowdenbeath Coal Company purposed carrying out in the mines and in connection with the house accommodation. Those two years have been almost unprecedented years in the mining industry. Trade has been exceedingly dull all over the country: prices have been small; and anything but encouraging, but despite this, Mr Mungall and his enterprising company have carried out their original plans for developing the coalfields of Foulford, Cowdenbeath, and Lumphinnans, and adding considerably to the housing accommodation of the village.

At Lumphinnans.

At Lumphinnans the work that has been accomplished by the coal company since the property fell into their hands, is something enormous, and the wayfarer who passed the straggling row of houses ten years ago would to-day find it difficult to spot the old landmarks. A lengthy row of houses which were constructed on the old single room principle, without any conveniences of any kind, have been made into bright airy double dwellings, and no fewer than forty-six new houses have been built by the wayside. The houses are built of brick and are fitted with such modern appliances as should make a considerable alteration to village life. Each house is fitted with a scullery and an outhouse, and what gives the blocks a tidy appearance is the fact that considerable attention has been paid to ornamentation. Of late Rev Mr Macainsh of Free Church, Lochgelly, has carried on missionary work in the hamlet, and Mr Mungall has kindly set aside one of the new houses for the meetings. By a good many of the families Mr Macainsh's labours have been highly appreciated, and now that a meeting place has been secured, it is fully anticipated that the good work will be carried on more effectively. Pumping at the winding machinery, and other gearing, have been erected on the "Engine Pit", and sinking operations have been carried on with such success that it is expected that the Dunfermline splint, which lies at a depth of 160 fathoms, will be reached in a few weeks. This pit will give work to a large number of additional hands when the seams are developed. Passing from Lumphinnans to

The Village of Cowdenbeath

We find that, dull trade, restrictions and altogether, building is going on at almost every turn. The two storey and attic houses erected recently in the Main Street, are an ornament to the place, and compare favourably with the dull grey plain walls of the

houses adjoining. A few block of houses have been erected on the West side of the Great North Road by thrifty workmen and on the East side in blocks, 16 houses in all are being erected by the coal company. In these 16 houses Mr Mungall is adhering rigidly to his original plan of providing every accommodation for each house. So that large families may be accommodated some of the houses consist of three apartments, scullery, and other conveniences. Of late it has been apparent that the village would soon outgrow its water supply, and so that the growth of the village may not be obstructed for want of abundance of water, steps are already taking place to secure a supplementary supply. The sanitary condition of the place is being also improved, and doubtless the members of the active institutions which exist in the village will soon make the necessary move to secure the lighting of the street lamps during the forthcoming winter. While matters are thus progressing at Lumphinnans and Cowdenbeath, it is satisfactory to point out that

In The Pit At Foulford

the coal seams struck two years ago are meeting expectations. On all hands the seams are being opened up, and the output grows apace with the development of the fields. The coal company recently came to the conclusion that they should not confine themselves to the coal industry; and in accordance with the resolution they have built a

Large Brick Work

on the Foulford estate. A large two storey building has been built, and in every department manual labour is dispensed with as much as possible, and machinery of the most approved principles introduced. The bricks are made of the blaes which are drawn daily from the mines, and in the lower part of the building the stones are crushed by two huge rollers, each weighing 43 cwts. From this the half ground material is carried by machinery into a pan in the upper flat, and here it is reduced to a powder, and with a judicious mixture of water made into clay. From the upper flat the clay again finds its way to the lower flat, where it falls into machines which turn out brick almost entirely without human aid. There are two of these ingenious brick-making machines, and each of them are capable of turning out at least 10,000 bricks per day. The bricks turned out are neat and uniform, and are as square as if the mason's compass and square had been applied to them. No fewer than five kilns have been erected on a spot quite adjacent to the brick-making house, and the facilities provided for turning out material will be apparent when we state that each of the kilns are guaranteed to fire 30,000 bricks at a time. The new industry is another string to the bow of the coal company and the people of Cowdenbeath, and judging from the business-like air which pervades the place, the excellence of the goods manufactured, and the despatch with which can be executed, the Cowdenbeath Brick Work should soon rank among the successful institutions of Fifeshire.

Beath Parish Church

In view of the great increase to the population of the village during the past few years, there need be little surprise at the fact that the Parish Church of Beath (where the Rev. Mr Sinclair labours with much acceptance) has burst its bounds, and the management

have had to face the "lengthening of the cords and the strengthening of the stakes." Additions to parish churches now and again create dissensions throughout the country in consequence of the probable interference with sacred rights of burial in the ground intended to be appropriated for the extensions. At Beath, however, Mr Sinclair and his session soon got over any difficulty on this score, and the question of extension was gone into without obstruction. The extent of the addition will be apparent when it is stated that when finished, 240 extra sittings will be provided - the sitting accommodation of the church is being increased from 460 to 700 sittings. The addition has been made on the east end of the church and care has been taken by the architect to preserve the architectural features of the building. The extensions will cost about £800, and the following shows the total amount of the expenditure raised: -

Heritors of the Parish	£300
Raised by Congregation	£100
Baird Trust	£200
 Total	 £600

This leaves a debt of £200, and any enthusiastic friend of the National Zion of the West of Fife who may have a little cash on hand for church extensions could not do better than communicate with the Rev. John Sinclair, The Manse, Beath. The mining trade is as everybody knows exceedingly dull, and the case is one in which a little extraneous aid might not come amiss.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27th, 1886

THE PAST AND PRESENT OF HALBEATH DISTRICT

HALBEATH.

In endeavouring to give our readers a historical and topographical description of this place we believe that such would be incomplete without making reference to some of the past incidents in the history of such an interesting locality which must be still familiar to the minds of many of its inhabitants. The old colliery of Halbeath, which gave rise to the existence of the present village, which bears its name, is now entirely obsolete. The stoppage of the works took place about ten years ago, caused mainly by the lowermost seams of coal becoming exhausted, and the extraordinary cost in maintaining a proper drainage. This led to the development of the colliery, as it now exists, at Kingseat. The old village of Halbeath is still retained, however, and kept in order for the accommodation of a large portion of the workmen. Taking the several small hamlets of which the village is composed, they will give an aggregate population of eight or nine hundred. The whitened, red tiled rows have a quaint appearance, are in most cases situated on slightly elevated ridges, are so far sheltered thereby, and have a pleasing prospect to the south. When at first built, the houses were of no particular design, low in ceiling and ill lighted, but in these respects have of late years been greatly improved, and made more comfortable by the present proprietor, Mr Wallace of Halbeath.

The ground surrounding the place is fairly fertile and well cultivated. The management of this department has been for a long series of years entrusted to Mr Robert Campbell, who has of late years assiduously altered the configuration of the ground by the removal of many hideous heaps of rubbish which had accumulated from the old pit workings.

From the many blackened spots to be seen in the fields it is obvious that the whole district has at one time or other been totally riddled with coal pits. It is difficult to find records or tradition to say when coal was first begun to be worked here. There is no doubt, however, but it was begun at a very early date, being only two-and-a-half miles from the Abbey of Dunfermline, whose authority exercised a control over the digging of coal in the parish five or six centuries ago. In olden times many pits would be sunk in a small area. This would be necessary in order to shorten the road-ways, as the material had to be brought to the surface by means of cories or baskets carried on the backs of females. This, of course, was obviated afterwards by the invention of the steam engine. The coalfields in the district, like all others in Scotland, is divided and subdivided into many sections by dykes, faults, and hitches. These dykes, which form dislocation in the strata, vary from a few inches to 240 feet, and always cause the industrious coal seeker to exercise his skill and find the seams either up or down according to the dislocation so formed. Sometime the seams thin out longitudinally,

and at other times it is found that they take on and thicken as they proceed. These faults or dykes run transversely across the county, and commonly have a bearing upon the trap hill or hills in their vicinity. We have an instance with this with the Hill of Beath, the Cullalo Hills in the south-east, and the Craigluscar and Saline Hills to the north-west, which may be taken as the boundaries in the western district of Fife - and in all probability these trapped masses greatly contributed to upraise and derange the strata which these dislocations intersect. The seams of coal so long worked here were the splint and five foot, the eight foot, and sometimes parrot coal was obtained, and were all of the finest quality. Their incline was from north to north-west, and their angle of dip may be taken at 1ft in 8ft, to 1ft in 2½ft - frequently steepest when near the dykes, as if the whole strata had been pulled down in its formation.

The most familiarly known pits where machinery was first used in the district nearly a century ago were the "North Engine" which was 75 fathoms deep, "Plaintain", "Parrot", and the "Willie" pits. The "Plaintain" was 37 fathoms deep, with one atmospheric engine of 30 horse power for pumping, and a high pressure engine of 12 horse power for winding. The "Willie" was 39 fathoms, with one high pressure engine of 25 horse power, and 15 lb. pressure per inch on the piston, for pumping and winding. The "Parrot" was 33 fathoms, with one high pressure engine of 14 horse power for pumping and winding. In 1837 the output of coal at this colliery was as follows: - Parrot, 5930 tons; common, 12,457 tons; total, 18, 437 tons; and the total number of persons employed both above and below ground was 175. The population of the village at that time was about 500.

The chief outlet to the markets was the tram railway to Inverkeithing Harbour, distant four miles. A considerable number of horses had to be kept to convey the wagons to and from that port. The "Albert Pit", which was first used as a pumping pit, was sunk about 1790, and shortly after was for many years abandoned. The pit was again refitted, however, and put into working order in 1845. It was 45 fathoms deep. It was at this time that the "Queen Pit" was put down to a depth of 95 fathoms, close to the base of the great 40 fathom dyke. It had a splendid outfit, which cost about £12,000. This shaft was long used as a source of drainage for miles around. The drainage was effected by means of an expensive condensing engine on the Cornwall principle, of 200 horse power, working three sets or lifts of pumps, and raising 800 gallons of water per minute (which was greatly augmented afterwards) to the day level, 23 fathoms from the surface. The output of splint and five-foot coal from these pits was from 60,000 to 70,000 tons annually.

The colliery, as then constituted, was leased by Messrs Henderson, Wallace & Co., who are now represented by the present enterprising proprietor, Mr Wallace of Halbeath. It is now nearly 30 years since the services of Mr Carlow were secured as general manager of the works. Mr Carlow is essentially a self-made man, and has all along brought much energy and practical skill to bear upon the whole concern under his care. His remarkable career calls for a place among the foremost rank of the captains of mining industry in this country. A great difficulty which he had to contend with at first in the discharge of his duties was the presence of a large body of water in the "North Engine Pit". It spread along in near contact with a large proportion of the workings then in operation, and hung over the miner as a serious

menacing danger. Inundations did take place, but were happily not attended with any loss of life. Mr Carlow's attention was soon directed to the necessity of making further explorations in search of coal. A step towards this end was effected when the "Eliza Pit" was put down, under his supervision, to a depth of 110 fathoms with a costly outfit. This pit was destined to have a short career, as subsequent events necessitated the abandonment of the workings. For some time previous to this the resolution had been formed to open up the coalfield at

KINGSEAT

The operations there have already extended over a period of 29 years. The road leading from Halbeath some 29 years ago was a veritable slough. Since then, however, through Mr Wallace, it has been made one of the best roads in the district. The village of Kingseat, which has come into existence within the last 20 years, contains at present about 800 inhabitants. It is well formed and the houses are neat and comfortable, many of which belong to the industrious workmen engaged at the colliery.

The situation is on an elevated ridge 550 feet above the level of the sea, and is therefore somewhat cold and exposed, but the scenery, consisting of hill and dale, with which it is surrounded, greatly relieves the prospect. The colliery as now constituted consists of three pits near the south side of Loch Fitty, and are all conveniently placed along the West of Fife mineral railway, which forms an outlet to the markets.

The pits have been skilfully put down, so as to obviate difficulty arising from the dislocations in the strata, caused by the presence of several massive dykes. No. 1 Pit fetched the Splint seam at a depth of 70 fathoms, and occupies a sort of intermediate position, so as to take a sweeping hold of the higher seams, viz, - Four Foot, Upper Eight Foot, together with the Splint and the Five Foot to the "rise" of the field. In this pit a cross-cut mine is in process of construction to win the Cairncubie and Swallow-drum seams, which remain up till now almost unbroken. No. 3 is down to the Splint at 112 fathoms, with dip inclines, and is intended to work out the coal from the deepest part of the coal basin. New pumping machinery is now being fitted in, under the immediate superintendence of Mr Cook, manager, and Mr Ireland, engineer, so as to meet any additional demands for drainage purposes. The conveyance of the hutches from the face to the bottom of the shafts requires the use of 5 haulage engines, along with about 30 horses. The system of winning pursued is "long wall", which is best for producing an air current. This colliery was among the first in Scotland to adopt the "long wall" system of working. The colliery has, therefore, long enjoyed a high reputation for ventilation. The coal is of excellent quality, and there is still an extensive stretch of the different seams to be extracted. The daily output is full 600 tons, amounting to about 17,000 a year, which give employment to 500 workpeople. The education wants of both villages are supplied by a handsome school built by the Landward School Board of Dunfermline. The old village is further benefited by the existence of other institutions, such as mutual improvement, reading club, and reading rooms, Sunday Schools, provident societies, for sick and funeral purposes; and also an industrial sewing class for young women, superintended by Miss Carlow. The latter

village (Kingseat) is possessed of a thriving co-operative society, forester's, and other benefit societies.

The supply of water, introduced into both villages by Mr Wallace, is excellent, and has been a great boon to the inhabitants, who, as a rule, are very steady and industrious in their ways of living. In concluding these notes, we can only wish for further prosperity to the trade in which the people of this district are so much interested.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 1887

EARLY MINING IN DUNFERMLINE

Coal must have come into pretty general use in the more southern parts of Scotland prior to the year 1283, for in that year the municipal statutes of Berwick contain regulations for selling it alongside the ships importing it. A considerable quantity is recorded amongst the stores of the Castle of Berwick in 1292. About the same period, the monks of Dunfermline got a grant from William de Oberwill of the right to dig coals for their own use on his lands of Pittencrieff, but were not allowed to sell any. A little later, in 1294, the High Steward of Scotland gave to the monks of Paisley a right to mine coal.

A Curious Agreement.

At the beginning of the fifteenth century there had evidently been a considerable increase in the coal trade. Works at Dysart belonging to Henry, Earl of Orkney, are mentioned in 1407. Coal must have been a common article of merchandise in 1425, when an act of the Scottish Parliament was passed requiring all burghs to appoint "a lele man sworn to mete all gudis sellable be the water met als wele colis als uthir gudis." Teind was paid by coal-works certainly in the beginning of the 16th century, for in 1510 Bruce of Kennet was threatened with excommunication if he did not pay the coal teind of Clackmannan. A very curious agreement was entered into between the Abbots of Dunfermline and Newbattle as to their coal workings at Prestongrange in 1531. It provided that the Abbot of Newbattle should work his coal to the march of Inveresk and Pinkie at the same level as formerly, and make provision for draining off the water to the sea. At the same period the annual value of the coal works at Preston belonging to the Crown was estimated at 1100 merks Scots.

Early Royalties.

Among the MMS. in the charter room of the Countess of Rothes, at Leslie House, is a feu-charter by George, commendator of the Monastery of Dunfermline, setting in feu farm a portion of the lands of Stenton, and a license to the tenants of the said lands to dig for coals at their own expense, paying to the convent as royalty every ninth load. If they made sinks or holes to find coal, and did not find it, they were bound to fill these up at their own expense. This deed is dated January 12, 1555. About this period great alarm was felt lest the coal should all be quickly exhausted, and an Act restraining its export was passed in 1563, but smithy coal was permitted to be exported by an Act of Privy Council in 1565. Acts prohibiting the export of coal was frequently afterwards passed for the same reason. Coal was worked at Culross in 1572, and Lord Sinclair's "coil pit" at Dysart is mentioned in 1584.

Hanged for Fire-Raising

All "metals, mines, and minerals whatsoever" were put under the jurisdiction of a special official, styled the Master of Metals, by an Act of Parliament in 1592; and in the same year another Act was passed declaring that 'for the better punishment of the wicked crime of wilfully setting fire to "coil heuchis" by ungodly persons, it should be declared to be, and punished as, treason.' A case is recorded, not long after, in which a miner, named John Henry, in Little Fawside, belonging to Mungo McCall, against whom he had conceived "ane deidlie rancour and evil will because the said Johnne had nocht that libertie and commandiment vunder him quhilk he had vunder Johnne Livingstoun his predissessour." He was hanged at the Market Cross of Edinburgh, and afterwards beheaded, and his head placed on a pole beside the coal pit as a warning to others.

Slavery

What was the position of the coal miners and salt workers? That it was, in fact, a sort of slavery cannot be doubted. Though "neyfship" or serfdom, which was a characteristic feature of Celtic society, only died out in Scotland in the fourteenth century - the last claim proved being 1364 - compulsory service was known long afterwards. All vagrants and able-bodied beggars were obliged to find a master, or be liable to pains and penalties. The Acts to encourage manufactories gave power to those engaged in such to compel vagrants to work in them. In 1606 Parliament enacted that no persons should fee or engage any colliers, coal-bearers, or salters without a testimonial from their last master showing a reasonable cause for their removing, and if anyone engaged them without such certificate the master from whom they had deserted could claim them within a year and a day, and they had to be given back within twenty-four hours under pain of £100 damages. The deserting workmen were to be punished as thieves. By the same Act express commission was given to the owners of coal-pits and salt-pans to apprehend and put to labour all vagabonds and sturdy tramps. The service of the workers was practically perpetual. If the owner sold his work the labourers went with it without any powers of changing their scene of labour. By an Act of 1661 no colliery proprietor could take a labourer into his service without the permission of his former master and a testimonial from him. Colliers and salters were specially exempted from the beneficial operation of the Act of 1701, the Scottish "Habeas Corpus." Their pitiful condition was not remedied till 1775, and their full emancipation did not take place till 1799.

Alarms As To The Extent Of Coalfields.

To return from this digression. In 1609 an Act of Parliament was passed confirming the former Acts against the exportation of coal, as "the haill coill within the kingdom sall in a verie schorte tyme be waisted and consumed."

In 1621 the Master of Elphinstone's pit was on fire and useless, and he had expended £8000 in sinking another. Sir James Richardson could not get enough coals to supply

his own house. The pits of Mickle Fawside were doing so badly that a part of the ancient heritage had to be sold to pay a debt incurred in working it. The mineral trade was obviously in a very bad way, so the Privy Council altered their former decision, and raised the price to 7s 8d a load. Another glimpse of the condition of the coal mining industry at this period is obtained from an Act of the Privy Council passed shortly afterwards in favour of Samuel Johnston of Elphinstone. He petitioned to be allowed to export coal for seven years, on the grounds that he had expended 20,000 merks on his pits, and that he gave employment to 40 families, to whom he paid weekly 200 merks. Owing to the depressed state of trade he could not go on with his works and all his workers would be thrown out of employment. Under the circumstances the Privy Council granted his request.

No Restriction Allowed.

The powers of the Act of 1609 as to workers in pits was further extended in 1641 to all employed about the works, and it was enacted that no higher fee than 20 merks should be paid to any collier. It concludes with the following provision regarding idle days: -

"And becaus the saidis coall hewers and salters and otheres workmene in coal heuches within this kingdome dee ly from ther works at Peach Yule Whitsonday and certane other tymes in the yeer, which tymes they imploy in drinkin' and deboishrie to the great offence of God and prejudice of ther maister: It is therefore statute and ordeaned That the saidis coalhewers and salteres and otheres workmene of coal heuches in this kingdome worke all the sex days of the week vunder the paines followeing, That is to say that everie Coalhewer or salter who lyes ydle shall pay twenty shillingis for everie day by and attour the prejudice susteened by ther maister and other punishment of ther bodies."

In 1644 a duty of six shillings was imposed on coal exported, but if shipped in foreign vessels the duty was to be twelve shillings. In 1620, 1621, or 1643 the Privy Council had made regulations for the price and sale of coal, and in 1644 Parliament ratified and approved the same, and appointed commissioners for the different districts to see the provision of the Act attended to; but the Earl of Dunfermline was exempted from the operation of the Act as to his coal in the Crossgates of the Moor of Dunfermline till 25th December, 1646. In consequence of the imposts levied on casual rents in the valuation of 1643, when the Newcastle trade was barred to maintain the army in Scotland in 1645, the Earl of Wemyss, Lord Elphinstone, and the Laird of Sauchie, presented a petition to the Estates, in name of the coal and salt masters of the kingdom, praying that in consequence of depressed trade and civil war they might be exempt as far as these rents were concerned from any burden laid on the country. The Estates granted the petition so far that they ordered a re-valuation to be taken of all such works and that all future impositions should be put on this new valuation.

Allowed One Holiday.

It would appear that miners were in the custom of flitting and entering at Yuletide or Christmas and celebrating both the event and the day in a somewhat boisterous

manner. In consequence Parliament ordered that from and after 1647 the flitting and entry of colliers should be on the 1st December, and that no superstitious observance of Yule should take place under severe pains and penalties. In 1656 the custom on Scottish great coal was to be 4s a ton in British ships, but 8s if exported in foreign bottoms. Small coal was only charged half rates. A return made to Parliament of Richard Cromwell in April 1659 shows that the annual value of this custom on the export of Scottish coal amounted to £22165 5s 4d sterling.

The Acts of 1606 and 1641 regarding the working days of miners were confirmed by an Act in 1661, but they were now to be allowed a holiday at Christmas.

The Seventeenth Century.

The value of coal at the close of the seventeenth century appears from a protection in favour of Sir David Cunningham of Robertland, who married about 1665, Lady Kilmaurs, on whose first husband the estate of Caprington had been bestowed by the Chancellor of Glencairn, who had bought it from the creditors of Sir William Cunningham of Caprington. The price of the barony, about 1665, was 80,000 merks, including a good going colliery, but in 1696 the coal, owing to the then depression of trade, was worth only 300 merks a year, instead of £40 a week as formerly. The bad state of the trade is further shown by a representation made by the town of Bo'ness to the Commissioners for Trade in 1699. It is there stated that the colliery owners could scarcely keep their workings going owing to the small price of coal and their great expense of working. Such was the deplorable state of this great industry when the union of the kingdom took place in 1707.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JULY 3rd, 1887

NOTES ON CULROSS AND LOW VALLEYFIELD.

MONOPOLY OF THE OLDEN TIME.

Free Trade students and Apostles of Protection, or "Fair Trade", as the latter is now called, will find a chapter in Mr Beveridge's work on "Culross and Tulliallan," which is worthy of perusal. The chapter is none other than that in which the writer deals with "Girdles and Girdlesmiths of Culross".

"If ye dinna behave yoursel' better I'll gar your lugs ring like a Culross Girdle." is a saying which dates back to an early period of the burgh's history, and which at one time common in broad Scotland. The saying points to the celebrity of the Culross article, and of itself leads to infer that the ancient burgh must have been the seat of the vanished industry. The history of the Culross girdle does not, however, rest on a mere proverb. Numerous musty old documents have been preserved which bear more or less directly upon the industry from the foundation to its fall, and as already indicated, our object in "resurrecting" the girdle at this time is to show the means adopted by the fathers of Culross to ensure the quality of the article, and to maintain the edicts by which they had a monopoly of the trade.

It appears that as early as 1549 the "craftis mene of smythes of the toune of Culrois agreed that no forge should be erected by the servant or apprentice of any craftsman till he be judged qualified by the Corporation to carry on the trade, and that he shall have sufficient means of his own without being necessitated to borrow on credit". The girdlesmiths also agreed that "naine o' us sall use this craft o' ours in na toune nor place of Scotland, bot allendarlie in the toune of Culross, quhair it has bein ay usit befor."

In those advanced days the penalty inflicted for a breach against the rules and regulations of the Trade Union might be expulsion from the ranks of the organisation, in some cases a little quiet boycotting might be resorted to, but this punishment sinks into insignificance when compared with the "Laws" enforced by the Culross Girdle Caesars of the sixteenth century. The penalties which followed in the wake of a contravention of the agreement were: - For a first offence the offender was reduced from the rank of a Master to a servant for one year, or pay a fine of 20 merks Scots; for a second offence the delinquent was debarred from using his craft for a period of three years; and for a third he was expelled from the Corporation.

In 1599 King James VI. paid a visit to Culross, and so much does he seem to be impressed with the importance of girdle making to Culross that he forthwith issued a proclamation to "my Lordis and Barons, Provost and Baillies" of our Broughs,

granting Culross a complete monopoly of the trade. The Royal edict set forth that "na persone or personis" should "tak upon hand to work any of the said griddle except that he be lawfullie admitted and authorised be the hail body of that craft;" The Royal edict was of course implicitly obeyed throughout Scotland. How would such an order be received in Scotland in the 19th century?

It appears that in 1634 there were no fewer than sixteen master smiths in Culross. So strong was the craft that "ane loft in the west end of the kirk" was conceded, and the attendance of members was rigidly enforced. An apprenticeship of five years was served in the girdle trade, and after the five years the person had to work another three before he was allowed to start as a master girdle-smith. A study of the records of the craft shows that the girdle makers of Culross were determined that the supply should only be equal to the demand, and so we find the brethren of the craft ordaining that no "girdlemaker sal mak of twentie-six inch grdills in ane day, but two fittit grddis," and so on for other sizes. A fine of 12s was imposed for "ilk ane of the servants" that began work earlier than 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning. This was the means adopted by the ancient girdle men of Culross from keeping the market from getting glutted, so that the policy of restriction is not a thing of yesterday. The miners may claim that the restriction problem is as old as the coal and iron trades themselves.

In 1665-66 the miners of Lowvalleyfield and Preston challenged the right of the people of Culross to the girdle monopoly. The result was that Charles II. granted a fresh monopoly order, and this was followed by a Parliamentary ratification in 1690. Valleyfield men, however, would not close their forges; in other towns in Scotland forges occasionally turned out a girdle - a state of matters which induced the monopolists of Culross to engage in legal warfare. The law suit between Culross and Valleyfield dragged itself wearily along, and after all, a compromise had to be effected by which the Free Traders of Valleyfield were allowed to continue girdlemaking. In 1720 or 1725

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18th, 1888

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS OF DONIBRISTLE

Donibristle was originally the residence of the abbots of the monastery of Inchcolm, but at the Reformation, the house and lands passed into the possession of Lord Doune, who was then Commendator of the Abbey. By a subsequent marriage, the Moray and the Doune families were merged into one, and Donibristle became, and has since remained, the property of the Earl of Moray. The first of the present line of descent was James Stuart, the natural son of King James V., and half-brother to the unfortunate Queen Mary. At one time Prior of St Andrew's, he was created Earl of Moray in 1561, and during the minority of James VI., was Regent of Scotland. In consequence of the moderation with which he exercised the power bestowed on him, he was called the "Good Regent", a title by which he is now best known. He was shot down on the streets of Linlithgow in 1570 by Hamilton of Bothwellhaugh, a gloomy-minded hypochondriacal individual, who considered himself to have private as well as public wrongs to be avenged in this unjustifiable way. The present Earl, George, is the fourteenth in the line of descent.

It is in the neighbourhood of the blackened walls of the house that the historical associations of Donibristle culminate. During the war of Independence a stirring scene was enacted here. In 1317 an English army, sent by Edward II. to invade Scotland, landed at Donibristle, and, as narrated by the Chronicler Holingshed, "barned the countrie on each side, and took many rich booties from the inhabitants near to the shore." The Sheriff of the County and Duncan, Earl of Fife, hastily collected a band of 500 men and set out to drive the invaders back, but became panic-stricken on seeing their numbers, and beat a hasty retreat. They were met in their flight by William Sinclair, Bishop of Dunkeld, who, on hearing of the invasion and the terror it had inspired, girded on his armour, and, with sixty followers, rode post-haste from his residence at Hallyards, to the scene of action. On encountering the fugitives he accosted them with "Out upon you, false Knights! - you deserve to have the gilt spurs struck from your heels for your cowardice". He then threw away a linen frock or rochet he had over his armour, and seizing a spear from the nearest soldier dashed on the enemy crying, "Turn for shame and follow me! - who loves Scotland follow me." His countrymen rallied to the charge and drove the English back to their ships with great slaughter. According to an old Chronicler, "there fell more than five hundred men, besides a great number who rushed into a boat, and, overloading it, sank along with it." When Robert the Bruce heard of William Sinclair's exploit, he declared that he should henceforth be his own Bishop, and, for long afterwards, he was known as "The King's Bishop," and "The fechtin' Bishop."

A shocking tragedy was perpetrated at Donibristle in 1592, when "the Bonny", or handsome, Earl of Moray was foully murdered. Several reasons have been assigned for the commission of this crime. It is alleged by some historians that the personal attractions and accomplishments of the Earl had impressed the heart of Queen Anne

of Denmark, and had excited the jealousy of her Royal spouse. Although this seems to have been the popular notion at the time, it is doubtful whether it is correct. The majority of historical writers view the matter in much the same light as Sir Walter Scott, who says: - "The Earl of Huntly, head of the powerful family of Gordon, and the man of great consequence in the North of Scotland, had chanced to have some feudal differences with the Earl of Moray, son-in-law of the Regent Earl of the same name, in the course of which John Gordon, a brother of Gordon of Cluny, was killed by a shot from Moray's Castle of Darnaway. This was enough to make the two families irreconcilable enemies, even if they had been otherwise on friendly terms. About 1591/2, an accusation was brought against Moray for having given some assistance to Stewart, Earl of Bothwell, in a recent treasonable exploit. King James VI., without recollecting, perhaps, the hostility between the two Earls, sent Huntly (then Abbot of Dunfermline), with a commission to bring the Earl of Moray to his presence. Huntly probably rejoiced in the errand, as giving him an opportunity of avenging himself on his feudal enemy." Sir Walter goes on to relate: - "He beset the house of Donibristle, and summoned Moray to surrender. In reply a gun was fired, which mortally wounded one of the Gordons. The assailants proceeded to set fire to the house; when Dunbar, Sheriff of the County of Moray, said to the Earl, 'Let us not stay to be burned in the flaming house, I will go out foremost, and the Gordon's taking me for your Lordship, will kill me, while you escape in the confusion.' They rushed out among their enemies accordingly, and Dunbar was slain. But his death did not save his friend, as he had generously intended. Moray indeed escaped for the moment, but as he fled towards the rocks by the sea shore, he was traced by the silken tassels attached to his headpiece, which had taken fire as he broke out from among the flames. By this means the pursuers followed him down among the cliffs near the sea; and Gordon of Buckie, who is said to have been the first that overtook him, wounded him mortally. As Moray was gasping in the last agony, Huntly came up; and it is alleged by tradition, that Gordon pointed his dirk against the person of his chief, saying, 'By heaven, my Lord, you shall be as deep in as I', and so compelled him to wound Moray whilst he was dying. Huntly, with a wavering hand, struck the dying Earl in the face. Thinking of his superior beauty, even in that moment of parting life, Moray stammered out the dying words, 'You have spoiled a better face than your own.'" Lady Doune, mother of the "Bonnie Earl", took the dead bodies of her son and his faithful friend over to Leith and endeavoured to incite the populace to demand justice for the horrible outrage.

There is still preserved in Donibristle charter-room a banner which was placed over the double bier. On it is a representation of the slashed body of the "Bonnie Earl", encircled by a scroll bearing the words, issuing from the dead man's mouth, "Lord, avenge my cause." The young Earl of Moray was prohibited, by Royal Proclamation, from persuing Huntly for the murder, on the ground that he was warded in Blackness Castle, and willing to abide a trial, as he had done nothing but His Majesty's commission. Huntly was subsequently discharged from prison without trial, and the Earl of Moray, by the King's special meditation and appointment, was reconciled to his father's murderer in 1601, and married to Lady Anne Gordon, his daughter. In this manner the animosities between the Gordon and Moray families were patched up.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL
SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 1888.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT CAPLEDRAE COLLIERY.

FIVE PONIES SUFFOCATED - NARROW
ESCAPE OF WORKMEN.

A fire which threatens to completely wreck the Capledrae Colliery, Lochgelly, belonging to the Lochore and Capledrae Cannel Coal Company, broke out in one of the mines on Wednesday evening.

THE EXTENT OF THE COLLIERY.

The colliery nestles close to the foot of the Benarty Hill, and now only consists of two mines, which are separated from each other by a few yards, and which are driven into the strata, at an angle of 45 degrees, for a distance of between 300 and 400 fathoms. From the bottom of these mines the cannel coal workings branch off in every direction, the enterprise displayed in getting coal being such as is seldom undertaken at any colliery. The day mines are driven a width of 15 feet, but the actual roadways are only 9 feet, 3 feet on each side of the rails being taken up with solid pillars of wood - the most effectual means that can be adopted for maintaining the roof and sides of a trunk road. No. 1 mine is used entirely for raising the material and the men to and from the surface; while No. 2 is appropriated principally for pumping purposes, and it was in the latter mine where the fire was first discovered.

FIRST WARNING OF THE FIRE.

It appears that when the day shift men knocked off work in the afternoon of Wednesday everything was going on smoothly, and some 25 men descended for the purpose of doing road repairing and other duties between 2 and 3 o'clock. About 7 o'clock one of the men, who was doing duty at the bottom of the coal drawing mine, felt that the air was a little mixed with smoke, but matters had not by any means assumed a condition which gave the least cause for alarm. So work proceeded in the mine with the usual method - any little smoke which made its appearance at the spot where the bottomer was being quickly swept away by the strong current of air which came down the downcast or coal drawing mine.

THE SEAT OF THE FIRE.

Between 9 and 10 o'clock, however, two men named John Butters and Richard Beveridge descended the pumping mine for the purpose of getting a quantity of rails from a disused level. The men had not got far into the mine when they felt that the air was a good deal vitiated - the current of air in the pumping mine was never particularly strong - and they were surprised to find that their lights had gone out ere

they had reached the level for which they were destined. Apprehending the danger of the position, the two men, without a second's delay, signalled to the engineman to draw them to the surface. They reached the open air in an exhausted state, and having slightly recovered, they at once raised the

ALARM - "THE MINE'S ON FIRE".

(The writing in this paragraph is extremely faint and very difficult to read, however, I will do my best to copy as much of it as I am able. Jim C.)

"The mine's on fire" was the sent round the little mining community, and very soon quite a number of men who were willing

.....

A STAFF OF VOLUNTEERS DESCEND THE MINE.

At this stage Mr Ferguson, the manager, and a staff of ten stalwart volunteers elected, with water pails in hand, to descend the drawing or downcast mine, their intention being to find their way up the pumping department until the seat of the fire was reached. On reaching the bottom of the pumping mine the men found the air much contaminated with a smoke which indicated that wood was burning; but, nothing daunted, they without the least hesitation began

TO FACE THE ENEMY.

It can easily be imagined that a batch of men would experience a good deal of difficulty in scrambling up a mine with pails in hand, lying at an angle of 45 degrees; but the men toiled on, and at a spot 280 fathoms from the surface they found that the

WOODEN PILLARS AND ROOF CROSS BARS WERE IN A BLAZE.

At first sight it seemed as if after all the fates were with the men, for situated at a point near to the fire was one of the pumping engines delivery boxes, and here an ample supply of water could be obtained. Without any loss of time the pails were brought into requisition, but, alas, it soon became evident, so far as the volunteers were concerned, that

THE FIRE WAS UNQUENCHABLE.

A quarter of an hour's hard work ended only in smoke, and to save their lives the men were forced to beat a hasty retreat, and find their way to the surface. As was to be expected, every member of the staff was a good deal exhausted, and they had been a considerable time in the open air before they had fully recovered from the smoke. Once fully recovered, however, a desire was expressed to make another attempt to extinguish the flames, and for the

SECOND TIME THE VOLUNTEERS DESCENDED

and reached the seat of the fire. The second assault upon the enemy proved as futile as the first, and after the volunteers had sacrificed themselves to a most wonderful extent, they, to the relief of the people on the pithead, returned to the surface. After some experiments had been made by way of directing the air currents, it was agreed to make another - a final - attempt to extinguish the burning by getting at its roots, and for the

THIRD TIME THE LITTLE BAND DESCENDED.

Brave fellows, they could not have done more although many human lives had been at stake, and as they descended they frequently thought of the five ponies stabled at the point in the workings where it would have been madness for any man to approach. At any rate what could have been done with the animals although they had been brought to the bottom of a mine of 350 fathoms which lies at an angle of what is known locally as "half edge"? So the ponies were allowed to battle with their fate as best they could, and the volunteers once more proceeded towards the burning. The journey, however, again ended in failure, and the men found their way to the surface, some of them so much exhausted that it was evident that it would be wrong to attempt another descent. One of the men in fact became unconscious on reaching the open air, and it was some little time ere he had recovered sufficiently to indicate that he had strength in him to throw off the effects of the poisonous gas. Hence it was that at six o'clock in the morning it was resolved to resort to the last expedient generally adopted under such circumstances, namely - that of

DAMPING DOWN AND FLOODING THE MINES.

The ventilating fans were accordingly stopped and the mouths of the mines closed. This checked the air current at once, and must have been the last straw calculated to break the back of the five ponies if they really succeeded in struggling out an existence during the night, a thing which is exceedingly doubtful. The pumping engines were also stopped and the Lochty Burn diverted into the mines so that the whole workings might be flooded.

WHEN THE WATER MAY RISE.

The workings have been developed to such an extent that the empty waste about the mine is something enormous, and great as the growth of water is, it is not expected that the flooding can reach the seat of the fire within a week. If this calculation proves correct,

THE DAMAGE DONE TO THE MINE

will be something enormous. The roadway is bounded on each side by solid blocks of

wood three feet in thickness, and as the wood becomes charred the roofs and sides of the workings must inevitably collapse. The great roof falls will certainly play great havoc among the pumping gear, so that everything points to an enormous expenditure before the works can be again set in motion. Indeed the draining and clearing of the roof falls will form a task which few coal companies would face.

100 MEN IDLE.

The fire is nothing short of a calamity for the district. One hundred men, who along with their families depend entirely upon the coal industry, have been thrown idle, and in those hard times they can ill afford to do without work. Fortunately the Capledrae Coy. purchased the adjoining colliery of Benarty this week, and it is hoped that at least a few of the men will find employment at the new works.

CONTINUOUS VOLUMES OF SMOKE.

Yesterday dense volumes of smoke continued to issue from the mouth of the mine - a fact which indicated that the damping down process had affected the fire but little. Here and there men stood in groups discussing the situation, and the general feeling seemed to be that the only course open was to make a raid on the collieries in the district, and try to obtain work. The officials of the colliery busied themselves at various kinds of work, but with the mouths of the mines closed, they could do little or nothing which was calculated to have the least effect upon the fire. Indeed, with the exception of making the damping down apparatus more tight, nothing was attempted, and it may be said that the extinguishing has been left to the flooding.

THE COST TO THE COMPANY.

Meantime it is quite impossible to estimate the damage which will be sustained by the company. The most experienced colliery worker can as yet have no idea of the ravages of the fire, and the sequel which is likely to follow in its train. All that can be said is that the company will suffer severely by the calamity.

THE LOSS TO THE MEN.

In addition to being deprived of work for sometime, the men are likely to lose their "graith". As a miner's tool chest in many instances means a considerable item, some of the Capledrae miners will certainly be a good deal handicapped in starting work at other collieries.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL
SATURDAY, JULY, 7, 1888.

THE FIRE AT CAPLEDRAE COLLIERY.

AN ATTEMPT TO GET INTO THE WORKS.

Work is entirely suspended at Capledrae Colliery in consequence of the fire which broke out in one of the day mines on the 20th inst. The pumping engines were stopped and the pits dampened down when the fire broke out, and on Tuesday it was assumed that the workings would be flooded to a point above the spot where the burning was first discovered. The damping down apparatus was accordingly withdrawn, and under the command of the manager, Mr Ferguson, an exploring party ventured into the mine. They had not gone far, however, when dense volumes of smoke appeared, and the party had to beat a hasty retreat. On the men getting to the surface, the mines were again damped down.

THE FIRE EXTINGUISHED.

On Thursday, the damping apparatus was again withdrawn and the explorers succeeded, after the air had been a little rarefied, in getting down the mine to the point where the water had risen. They found that the burning had been completely extinguished, and that the water had risen to a spot considerably higher than the fire had touched. In consequence of this it was quite impossible to obtain the faintest idea of the damage done. The pumping engine of the old mine was set in motion, and every effort will be put forth to bring about a resumption of work in the section lying at a higher level than where the fire broke out. In consequence of the air being contaminated with black damp, the explorers did not penetrate far into the workings, but in the short journey they made they came upon two of the dead ponies. The creatures were frightfully charred, and gave evidence of having endured terrible suffering.

On the explorers getting to the surface, the pumping engine of the old mine was set agoing, and the new engine will be set in motion as soon as possible. Meantime, the first problem is to get air into the mines, and yesterday the preliminary steps were taken by way of commencing to make new air courses. Work will be resumed in the coal in the high level as soon as the ventilation has been restored. Meantime the company are supplying orders from stock, and the men are engaged at neighbouring collieries.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1888.

HUT LIFE ON THE ABERDOUR AND BURNTISLAND RAILWAY.

The brief sketch we gave last week, in connection with the disaster at Little Couston, of hut life on the Aberdour and Burntisland Railway must have led our readers to the conclusion that a very large section of men are eking out an existence which cannot be said to be an improvement upon life fought out by the rude inhabitants of early Briton. With a view of bringing the misery more prominently before the people of West Fife, and if possible assure the attention which may bring about reform of some kind or another, we think it met to-day to supplement our statements of last week.

Description of the Huts.

The large huts are built of wood, and consist of a dinning hall, a kitchen, and a number of sleeping apartments. Iron beds, guaranteed to rest two people, are rowed along the sides of each apartment, and in a comparatively small space thirty or forty men are packed together.

Admission Fourpence.

A keeper and perhaps a deputy are in charge of the huts, and each evening the men are admitted without reserve at the rate of 4d per head. If the 4d is not forthcoming admission is of course forbidden.

Cooking Their Own Food – A Struggle For the “Hot Plate”.

The men cook their own food in the Aberdour hut, and the same principal was enforced in connection with the structure which was burned down at Little Couston. The men, as a rule, breakfast between 6 and 7 in the morning, and the rush of upwards of 150 navvies to the “hot plate” or cooking stove is a sight never to be forgotten. The scene may in all fairness be designated the battle of the “hot plate”. As the hour approaches for commencement of work, those who have been forced to wait until numerous dishes have left the “plate”, naturally become anxious, and the frying pans, kettles, goblets, &c. begin to be tossed about in such a manner as to suggest to the stranger that he has suddenly become transported to a castmetal manufactory. Many of the breakfast dishes are indeed not very tempting, and the same holds good of the foods that are being attacked at dinner time. Only half-an-hour is allowed for dinner, and rather than fight for a place on the “plate”, or go to the trouble of cooking, a considerable number of the poor men content themselves with bread and butter, while others fall back upon the “rough and ready”, and, certainly dangerous “push by” of a jug of beer and a scone. Indeed, on the occasion of our visit, we were actually told that it was no uncommon thing for some of the men to place a piece of raw meat between a scone, and make this do duty for a dinner. Having ample time on hand at night, the cooking warfare does not assume the same competitive form as it does in

connection with other meals, but the “tea” is over at 6.30 pm and the men have a long night with

Really Little To Do.

Time hangs heavily on the poor wretches hands, and the vast majority of them, who may be said to have known nothing else but an Epicurean life, spend the night in drinking. Saturday night is a wild night at the huts, and Sunday morning is generally pretty well advanced ere the poor men – who have really more need to be pined than laughed at – have roared themselves hoarse, and become so exhausted that they pay their 4d, and seek in vain ‘Tired Nature’s sweet restorer, balmy sleep’.

Spending Their Sunday.

A long rest is taken on the Sundays, and during the summer the most of the afternoon has been spent in the open under the shadow of the woods. The various religious bodies in the village of Aberdour tried to conduct religious services in the dinning hall of the Aberdour hut for some time, but the babble of tongues was always so great that the inside meeting were abandoned. Out door meetings continue to be held, however, and Mr Brown of the Free Church, and Mr Roddick of the Established Church are receiving assistance from speakers from Carrubbers Close Mission, Edinburgh.

Is Reform Possible?

Now, in the above we have refrained from painting an alarming picture. We cannot help saying, however, that hut life as conducted in connection with the large huts on the Aberdour and Burntisland Railway is “not worth living”, and before winter sets in, in all its severity, the men and women of the district, who take a serious view of things, must come forward and bring about considerable reform. We willingly admit that much of the material is difficult to work with. Indeed, many of the “tramps” are as bad as it is possible for human nature to be. Every penny goes as it is earned in many instances, but with all the drawbacks here indicated, we think it possible to bring a change for the better. Man is a being of circumstances. If no pressure is made for reform from without, the miserable wretch will “wallow in the mire”, and continue – despite evolution dreams – to return to his vomit until he has gone down

*To the vile dust from whence he sprung
Unwept, unhonoured and unsung.*

It is a great distance from the squalid home to the palatial mansion of the rich, but after all we think it possible to make the distance less, and

Here Are The Reforms We Humbly Suggest.

The system by which from 100 to 200 men are crushed into one hut, without any arrangements for cooking but a “hot plate” is bad, and ought at once to be abolished. What is needed – and we confess we are surprised that any other principle should have been thought of – is a number of huts affording accommodation for say 30 men at most, and let the whole of the cooking be placed in the hands of a woman and say

her husband. To the cooking department the men could repair like rational beings, and instead of casting away 3d on a pint of beer, they could have a plate of warm soup for a penny. Many of the men are an unsteady and beer-loving lot, but the big hut system can only drive them from bad to worse. If the employers would only look to their own interests they would at once make three huts of the big hut, and open up an "eating house" in connection with every hut. This is one course which would assuredly tend to improvement, and

Another Way of Bringing About Reform

Is to raise funds to provide a methodical system of religious work and periodical entertainments. We are glad to say that already the first step has been taken in this direction. A number of gentlemen resident in the neighbourhood of Aberdour have erected a small wooden hall at a cost of £45. This building is seated to hold about 50 people. On week days it will be set aside as a reading-room, and on Sundays religious services will be conducted during the day and evening. The cost of the building has been raised, but funds will be required to carry on the good work, and to-day

We Make an Appeal

To all who can spare a shilling to come and help us. We have no hesitation in saying that it would be wrong to entrust the navvies with money, but here is a source through which every penny will be put to good use. Mr A. Rolland, of Aberdour House, Mr Normand, of Whitehill, Sheriff Gillespie, Rev. Messrs Brown and Roddick may be said to form the committee who will have charge of the institution, and we feel confident that money committed to their trust for such work as we have referred to will be found a good investment.

*Rescue the perishing, rescue the dying,
Jesus will comfort you, Jesus will save.*

Until matters have taken a more definite shape, and a receiving official has been appointed, we feel it our duty to announce that we will be happy to take charge of any money subscription or parcel of periodicals any of our readers may seem fit to send in. Money gifts or periodicals may be addressed to: - The Editor, Dunfermline Journal, 'For Navvies Rescue Work'.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1889.

THE LOCHORE AND CAPLEDRAE
COMPANY'S LEASE.

In the Court of Session judgment was recently given in the action by Robert Aytoun, C.E., and others, the trustees of the late Mr James Aytoun, advocate, as heritable proprietors of Capledrae, in Fifeshire, against the Lochore and Capledrae Cannel Coal Company, Limited. This Company holds a 31 year lease, dated in July 1872, of the coal and minerals in the estate, with power to break the lease at certain periods on six month's notice. The rent was fixed at £1000 a year, "whether the Company works the minerals or not," or, in the option of the proprietors, certain lordships were exigible. It was stated for the proprietors that none of the breaks have been taken advantage of; but that, notwithstanding, the Secretary of the Company wrote them on 20th August last intimating that they intended shortly to stop work, draw the rails and pipes, and allow the water to rise. They accordingly sought interdict against this action on the part of the Company on the ground that it was in contravention of the terms of the lease. It was replied for the Company that their proposals are warranted by the lease, and that nearly all of the coal let to them is exhausted. In the Bill Chamber Lord Kinnear passed the note for the trial of the cause in the Court of Session, but he refused interim interdict, that not being pressed for.

On the case being brought into the Court of Session, Lord Trayner allowed a proof on a point raised in the pleas of the parties. The complainers pleaded that the intimations contained in the respondents' letters involved questions which were referred to arbitration by the lease, and that the complainers were entitled to have them so determined. To this the respondents replied that as the complainers had consulted Mr George Hutton Geddes, M.E., and he had given advice, he was disqualified. After proof on this point Lord Trayner sustained the respondents' plea on the ground that the arbiter had disqualified himself by acting as adviser for the complainers. He reserved judgment as to the merits until it should be seen whether parties acquiesced.

Lord Fraser on Thursday found that the Company was under no obligation to continue the workings longer than suited them.

THE WESTFIELD OIL COMPANY'S DIVIDEND.

In the Court of Session a petition was recently presented to the First Division for sanction to the rankings of the liquidator of this Company, and for authority to pay a dividend to ordinary creditors at the rate of 1s per £1. The Company was started for the purpose of working minerals and shale in Westfield and Pitkinny, Fifeshire, and in February 1888 an order was given for winding it up. The liquidator, Mr H. Horsburgh, C.A., Edinburgh, now states that the claims amount to £9558 4s 8d. The trustees of James Aytoun of Westfield claimed £1071 3s 6d for mineral rents, &c., but it was stated it had been arranged that the claim should be restricted to £500; the trustees of James Thornton, proprietor of Pitkinny, had agreed to restrict their claim in respect of royalties and rents for minerals to £75. Mr George Simpson, Lomond House, Trinity, claimed to be ranked for £5396 10s 2d, which included a sum of £2000 as damages for non-implementation of obligations. The liquidator proposed to allow Mr Simpson to rank ordinarily for £2585 19s 8d. He has prepared a scheme of ranking, in terms of which he proposes to rank as preferable, claims amounting to £730 16s 5d; as ordinary claims amounting to £6016 17s 9d; and has rejected claims amounting to £2810 10s 6d. After payment of his remuneration of £315, the liquidator has a balance in hand of £1072 11s 5d. Deducting the amount of the preferable claims (£730 16s 5d) there remains £341 15s for division at the rate of 1s per £1 among the ordinary creditors. There will be no surplus for the shareholders. The liquidator in this petition asks the Court to approve of his scheme, and to grant him his discharge. Advertisement and service were ordered.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29th, 1888

FACTS NOT GENERALLY KNOWN REGARDING DUNFERMLINE

Under this heading it is proposed to give from time to time notes of interesting facts regarding Dunfermline. Although the city is rich in history, the books which have been written on the subjects are beyond the reach of ordinary people, and are to be seen in very few homes. The object of this series of articles, therefore, is to familiarise readers of the 'Journal' with noteworthy events and circumstances which have been brought to light in connection with the place, and which, for the reasons already mentioned, are not generally known. Ancient as well as modern history will be dealt with, but chronological sequence will be disregarded. Herewith is given the first instalment of the facts.

Adam Blackwood, a native of Dunfermline, became an eminent man in France, being a senator in the Parliament of Poitiers, and professor of law in Poitiers University. He died in Paris in 1623, at the advanced age of 84 years.

In 1755, when he was only twenty-one years of age Alexander Wedderburn, advocate, Edinburgh, was elected Provost of Dunfermline. He held the office until 1758, when he had a difference with one of the judges of the Court of Session, before whom he was pleading, and left for London. There he rose in his profession, and ultimately became Lord High Chancellor. He died in 1805, and was interned in St Paul's Cathedral.

The freedom of the burgh of Dunfermline was conferred on Walter Scott in 1821, about a year before he was created a Baronet. The new Abbey Church was then approaching completion, and the heritors promised to send the pulpit of the old church to Abbotsford, which they did in 1822.

The art of stereotyping, which is now indispensable to the production of daily Newspapers, was invented by a Dunfermline man, William Ged, sometime about the year 1725. The cast of two of his pages of 'Sallust' may be seen in the Antiquarian Museum, Edinburgh. Little is known regarding Ged beyond the fact that he stayed at Baldrige, but left at an early age for Edinburgh, where he became a jeweller, and commenced business on his own account. He is said to have had a strong predilection for printing.

Dr Davidson was the name of an eminent medical practitioner who laboured in Dunfermline in the first decade of the present century. In 1811 he was appointed professor of Natural History in Marischal College, Aberdeen.

Andrew Angus who invented an ingenious diving bell for the purpose of descending to and searching through the great warship, the "Royal George", which sank at

Spithead in 1672, constructed the apparatus in a cellar on the south side of Bridge Street, Dunfermline. Part of the bell or jacket, with breathing tubes of spiral wire, were discovered in Angus's house in Kirkgate when the improvements were being carried out, about thirteen years ago.

The freedom of the burgh was conferred in 1780 on John Wilson, the inventor of the fly-shuttle. Wilson was at that time a weaver in Abbey Parks, Dunfermline.

On a Sunday forenoon in 1774, while he was engaged on his now world renown works "The Wealth of Nations", Adam Smith walked from Kirkcaldy to Dunfermline 'in dishabille'. He was in a reverie, and was only awakened by the ringing of the church bells when he entered the city.

The first printer in Dunfermline is supposed to have been Gavin Beugo, who in 1762 had a book shop and small printing press in Bruce Street, then known as Collier Row.

It is not known when Dunfermline first elected a Provost, but in a charter dating as far back as 1448 the name of John Wright, 'Propostus', occurs. There were also two bailies at that date. The burgh records only extend to 1473. David Bra is the name of the first "common clerk of the burgh" mentioned.

John Hunter, a tailor in Dunfermline at the end of the eighteenth century, invented an astronomical clock; which besides showing the minutes and the hours, indicated the rising and setting of the sun, the daily motion of the moon, the rise and fall of the tides at Limekilns, and the day of the month. The wheels of this clock was made of large buttons.

Vaccination as a preventative to small-pox was first tried in Dunfermline in 1800. Those operated upon were members of the family of a Mr Blackwood, then a manufacturer in the town, and the surgeon was Dr Stenhouse.

The estates and superiority of Pittencrieff came into the possession of the Hunt family in 1800, when it was purchased by Mr Wm Hunt from Captain George Phin for £31,500. The estate was bought thirteen years before by Captain Phin for £17,600.

An umbrella was first seen in Dunfermline 102 years ago, having been brought from London by a local manufacturer. The "gamp", which is described as being of huge dimensions, and made of gingham, evoked great wonder among the people, who surrounded the inventor in the streets when he ventured out with it on a rainy day.

Potatoes were first grown in the West of Fife in 1731, in which year they were planted in a garden on the south side of Netherton Street. It was twelve years later until they were set in the open field, the farmer of Fod being the first to introduce them among his crops.

Dunfermline was overtaken by a great calamity in 1642, about three fourths of the town being destroyed by fire, which originated in a piece of burning wadding discharged from a gun alighting on the roof of a thatched home in the Rotten Row - a

street near the present Chapel Street. The number of houses in the town at that time is said to have been 220, and the number of families 287. Great distress prevailed, and subscriptions were raised throughout the country on behalf of the homeless people.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1889.

FACTS NOT GENERALLY KNOWN REGARDING DUNFERMLINE

II

As showing the truth of Lord Elgin's remark at the recent Liberal demonstration, that the Liberal party is a party of progress, it is interesting to note that at one time Dunfermline, notwithstanding its Radical proclivities, approved of the now high-and-dry Torry policy of Protection. In the year 1726 the Town Council issued a proclamation prohibiting any person, not an inhabitant of the town, selling butter or cheese on fair-days, or on the weekly market-days - Wednesday and Friday. The inhabitants were also debarred from buying butter or cheese from outsiders.

Those who now argue use and wont in favour of the election of an elder to represent the Town Council at the General Assembly may be surprised to learn that in 1729 the Council resolved to send no commissioner to the Assembly that year, and expunged a previous minute appointing two gentlemen to represent them.

While the Town Council is considering the question of the water supply for the town, it may opportunely be noted that 150 years ago the inhabitants were put to great straits for water. The summers of 1736 and 1737 were extraordinarily warm, and the three principal sources of water supply - the Dam, the Black Burn, and Broomhead - were dry for many weeks in the latter year. Two years afterwards the Council considered the advisability of bringing a supply of clear water into the town, but the sources tapped did not prove satisfactory, and a full quarter of a century elapsed before a scheme was adopted, although great inconvenience was suffered in the interval. In 1765 Lead pipes were laid from Headwell to a reservoir in Douglas Street, and in 1778 it was reported that the whole expenditure on the scheme up to that date had been £1745. 13s. 10½d. The supply proved insufficient, and in 1797 it was resolved to have recourse to springs at Cairncuble. The Craigluscar water was introduced in 1859, and the Glensherup in 1778.

The Rev Jacob Primmer, if nobody else, may be startled on learning that at the beginning of the seventeenth century the minister of Dunfermline, Mr Andrew Forster, was guilty of "Popish tendencies", he having caused a crucifix to be painted on his seat in the church. The affair caused a great hubbub throughout the country, and on the Synod taking it up, the minister, who is described as a weak-minded man, was suspended from his charge. The King was communicated with, but His Majesty treated the matter lightly.

The Town Council had at one time a most effective closure rule. It seems from the burgh records of 1639 that some of the members discussed questions with so much "garralitie and loquacitie" that the meeting resembled "rayther ane barbatic court than ane counsell". With the view, therefore, of "repressing the unmannerlie and indecent

formes used," it was "Statute and Ordainit, whatsoever counsellor of the said burghesall speak, reason, or give his voice or voit in counsell frae this tyme forth coming sall pay at the same time xiis for ilk failzure, toties quoties."

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1889

FACTS NOT GENERALLY KNOWN REGARDING DUNFERMLINE

III

Long ago there seem to have been prisoners in Dunfermline who were as slippery as O'Brien. A number of persons had escaped from the Tollbooth, and in consequence the Town Council in 1731 instructed the Magistrates to employ smiths to make "a machine fit for securing prisoners." The behest of the council was carried out, an iron cage being constructed, which it is said to have become a terror to the law-breakers and the unruly. What would Dunfermline Home Rulers say now if such an instrument were provided for fugitives from the law in Ireland?

How long the machine above referred to was in use is not stated. About twelve years after its introduction, however, the Tollbooth would appear to have been sufficiently secure. Two Aberdonians who were charged with horse stealing - then a capital offence - had given up all hope of making their escape, and one of them hanged himself in his cell during the absence of the jailor at church. The other was hanged at Cupar.

The word "Boycott," is quite a recent addition to the English - or Irish - vocabulary, but the people of Dunfermline knew more than a century and a half ago how to "Boycott" a man. The Incorporation of Weavers were very desirous of obtaining the use of ground at the Abbey Park, as a bleaching field, and applied to Mr Alexander Miller, the tenant, who rejected all offers made to him. Finding that they could not obtain the ground, they passed what they termed a "retaliation act", ordaining that "no member of their Incorporation shall drink ale after the tenth of Aprile next to come, either publicly or privately, that is made by the said Alex. Miller, under the penalty of one pound Scots to be payed to the Trades Box by each person who drink ale made of the malt grind as aforesaid."

Here is some information for the dress reformers who were some time ago waging war in the 'Journal' against women's corsets, skirts, and head-dress. About the middle of the last century the women of Dunfermline "wore plain gowns and short-gowns, plaids and wrappers; mutches, with great spread borders, sometimes decorated with notes of ribbons, adorned the head. During week-days the poorer sort of female wore the short-gown, wrapper, and bushels." A description of the male attire then worn may also be given. "Beginning at the top, it was covered with a large broad bonnet; then came a cravat; then a terrible, big, slouching coat; then a large pull of a waistcoat; then came the gun-mouth breeks, tied at the knees. Below were rig-and-furrow stockings; then came the well-roomed shoon, held together by either buckles or clasps; then came the six-feet long walking stick."

Reference has been made in previous notices to the mechanical genius of Ily a treatise in defence of the Reformation. It was considered a valuable argument in its day, and possibly it may yet be regarded as a kind of classic by some of the more militant Protestant defence societies. Ferguson, like Andrew Falservice in Rob Roy, had no doubt at all as to the Papish Church being identical with the Scarlet Lady, and in referring to her he generally employed the same plain spoken phraseology. The curious controversial writing of the old Reformer has other interests, however, besides the subjects discussed. It shows us how the Church of Rome came to be regarded at that time by the strong common sense of the country, and how intense was the hatred and disgust entertained towards it by the Reformers. It also shows how difficult it was for David Ferguson to repress himself, and keep his somewhat wayward tendencies of speech within due bounds. But it was an age of great plainness of speech, and such sentences as the following were considered quite allowable: - "As to the sluggishness of your pastors," he exclaims, "we leave them to be stirred up of you as ye think good; for in our judgement they are so fast aslepe that they cannot be walkened; so unsavoury that they cannot be salted; and so blind that they cannot be lighted." In speaking of Ferguson's writings I must on no account omit to mention his famous sermon preached before the Regent and nobility at Leith on 13th January, 1571. Eight years had elapsed since his former publication, and many stirring events had occurred during those years. The marriage of the hapless Queen of Scots to Darnley; the birth of James VI; the violent end of poor Darnley at Kirk o' Field; Mary's singular marriage to Bothwell; her escape from Loch Leven Castle; and the dastardly murder of the Regent Moray at the hand of an assassin, were a few of the outstanding events of that wild and tragic period. Ferguson was not, I think, the man to keep silence at such a time. The scanty materials for forming a likeness of the man are ample enough to show us this at least, that he had no lack of courage, and that if he knew when to keep silence; he knew also that there was a time to speak out. Whatever may be the prevailing idea of our time, the notion that ministers of the gospel had nothing to do with politics would have been treated with derision by David Ferguson and his associates. In this sermon, which he preached at Leith, he certainly did speak his mind very plainly. There is a great purpose in the discourse. He was filled with a mighty indignation at the "greedy worldly barons," as Carlyle calls them, "clutching hold of the Church's property," and turning it to their own private uses instead of the public weal. And now he has the nobles before him, many of whom were nobles in a conventional sense, the real nobles being always few in number, he is determined to let them hear the truth for once in their lives. The civil war was raging fiercely at this time, and, as there was no quarter given, the ghastly sight was daily witnessed of prisoners being hung from the walls of Edinburgh Castle by the Queen's party. What does David say about these doings? "Ye marvel, I doubt not," he says, "why ye have not prevailed against yon throat cutters and unnatural murderers within the town and castle of Edinburgh, especially ye having a maist just action, being more in number and mair vailzeant men. But cease to marvel; for the cause why that ye have not prevalit against them, lang or now, among mony ither your sins wherewith you are defilit is this; that the spoil of the poor is in your houses." How the property of the Romish Church, then happily disestablished, should be applied was a subject upon which Ferguson held very decided views. "I grant," says he, "that our fathers of immoderate zeal gave thereunto superfluously and mair enough. What then is to be

done? but that the preachers of God's word be reasonably sustained, seeing there is enough and over much to do it, the schools and the poor be well provided as they ought, and the temples honestly and reverently repaired, that the people, without injury of wind or weather, may sit and hear God's word, and participate of His holy sacraments. And if there rests anything unsuspended when this is done (as no doubt there will be) in the name of God let it be bestowed on the next necessary affairs of the common wealth, and not to any mans private commoditie." And then notice how strenuously he insists of having well equipped schools. "Our youth also," he urges, "ought to be nourished and maintained at the schools, that thereout of afterwards might spring preachers, counsellors, physicians, and all other kinds of learned men that we have need of." The brave old man had no fear of knowledge leading youth astray. "For the schools," said he, "are the seed of the Kirk and commonwealth, our children are the hope of posteritie which, being neglected, there can nothing be looked for but that barbarous ignorance shall overflow all." Such are some of the passages in the sermon, and it can readily be believed that a charge of rapacity and spoliation so bold and fearless against the aristocracy of his country should bring upon his much dislike and ill will. Such, we are told, was the case, but it received, on the other hand, the hearty commendation of one man whose approbation was unspeakably precious to Ferguson. That man was John Knox, who was asked by the General Assembly, which met at Perth on 6th August 1572, to examine and approve of the sermon. This approval he gave in the most hearty and unqualified manner. This, it appears, was the last piece of public service which Knox performed at the General Assembly's request. The incident is full of pathos and rich in suggestiveness. The veteran Reformer, worn and battered by strife, looking forward with longing eyes to the rest awaiting him; not so very old in years, but old exceedingly with hard toil and fierce struggle - the hand of death already, indeed, grasping him with its cold touch. Think of the brave old man reading Ferguson's manly and courageous words until his eyes sparkle with their old fire, and he feels his heart once more beat high with gladness at the thought that when he was laid to rest in St Giles Church yard there were brave men still remaining who would not allow the light that had been kindled to burn dim. The old dying warrior was not therefore content with merely signing an approval of the sermon. He tries to take his pen into his hand, already growing benumbed with the touch of the last enemy, and here is how he expresses his approval - "John Knox, with my dead hand but glad heart, praising God that of His mercy He levis suche light to his Kirk in this desolatioun." It was a high testimony to Ferguson's worth as a faithful preacher, but it shows also the entire disinterestedness and true patriotism of the noble-hearted leader of the Reformation himself. In those last dreary days, when his work was done, and he was weary to escape from his prison-house of clay, he was not thinking of himself, but full of thoughts as to the cause in which his life had been spent. It gives us a glance into the very heart of the hero at the close of his career. From this time onward to the end of his life Ferguson appears to have devoted himself heart and soul to the work of the ministry and to the kindred, and to him entirely congenial, work of promoting the cause of education. Again and again we see his name mentioned in history as being appointed to perform this, that, or the other important and honourable service to his Church or country. Reference has been made to his turn for humour. There are many instances on record of his ready wit and sharp and clever way of answering difficult questions. Especially in his encounters with the King did he distinguish himself in this way. He thoroughly understood that strange mixture of

pedantry, pawky shrewdness, low cunning, and contemptible cowardice known in history as James VI. The wit of one age is not quite the same as that of another, and through peculiarities of dialect and modes of thinking many jokes that had a marvellous success in their day do not seem quite so astonishing after a lapse of three centuries. There are some of Ferguson's sayings, however, that are still quite capable of being appreciated in this present century, of which we are inclined to think so much. For instance, his answer to the King's question about the earthquake. The operations of this, earthquake, it appears, were mainly limited to shaking the house of the Mister of Gray, a thoroughly worthless character, who had just returned from France. "What can this mean?", said the king to the Dunfermline minister. "Why should Gray's house alone shake and totter?". To which David was ready with his answer sharp and snell. "Sir," said he, "'why should not the Devil rock his ain bairns?" Calderwood's history is about the last book in the world to look for merry light-hearted sayings, and it is all the more interesting on that account to read the amusing account it gives of the deputation to the King at Falkland in 1583. This deputation of ministers was sent from Edinburgh to warn the young king against some innovations of a dangerous nature. David Ferguson was not at first a member of the deputation, but by the advice of some sagacious brethren, who knew his skill as a diplomatist, he was asked to join the company. Accordingly one of their number rode to Dunfermline and took Ferguson with him to Falkland. And now for the attack upon the King. It was a matter requiring much skill. When at last the deputation had an audience, and the youthful monarch was beginning to get disagreeable, Ferguson came to the rescue. As the historian quaintly puts it, he had "sundrie good tuiches, seasoned with a merrie kind of utterance, as thir: - "Sir," said Ferguson, "I would there were not a surname in Scotland, for they mak all the trouble." "And so would I." says the King. "Speaking of surname." observed Ferguson, "I can reckon with the best of you in antiquitie, for King Fergus was the first King in Scotland, and I am a Ferguson; but because sir, ye are an honest man, and hath the possession, I will give you my right." "Which indeed," adds the historian, "made the King to be merrilie disposed and to say, "See will ye heare him?". It is interesting too to observe that when one of the brethren was beginning to lecture to the King in a rather ponderous manner, David had to interpose; how he, as it were, pulled the coat tail of the indiscreet deputy, and took the matter in hand himself, for although a Lion of courage, he could act the part of an "old parliamentary hand" when occasion required, and when there was no need for heroics. As may be readily supposed, Ferguson was an uncompromising opponent of Episcopacy regarding the English Hierarchy, with a dislike second only in degree to his abhorrence to Papistry itself. He saw quite well that James hated the Presbyterian Church because it was a constant menace to his cherished desire to be absolute and, indeed, before his death, Ferguson solemnly predicted that when James succeeded to the English crown he would impose his bishops upon the Scotch Church. The pawky King liked, however, to have a talk with the Dunfermline minister on his favourite subject. "David," said he on one occasion, "why not may I have Bishops in Scotland as well as they have in England?" "Yea, sir," answered the old Reformer, "ye may have Bishops heare; but remember, ye must make us all Bishops, else will ye never content us. For if ye set up ten or twelve loons over honest men's heads (honest men will not have your anti-Christian prelacies), and give them more thousands to debauch and misspend than honest men have hundreds or scores, we will never be content. We are Paul's Bishops, sir, Christ's Bishops; ha'd us as we are." At this

outspoken statement of the case the King's language got rather profane. He was much given to swearing, it seems, and the faithful minister had to give him an admonition, King though he was. "Sir," said he to his sovereign, "do not ban." Apart from the insight such anecdotes afford of the controversies and habits of the time, there is a flavour of the olden time about the stories themselves which gives them, I think, a special charm. Even in the Church Courts Ferguson could be wisely merry or merrily wise, whichever way we may describe it. His son-in-law tells of an amusing speech which the old man once delivered on a certain memorable occasion. They were assembled in At Andrews at the time protesting against the inauguration of Patrick Adamson as Archbishop of that See, when someone came into the meeting and mentioned that a crow (or a corbie, as the chronicler expressed it) was sitting on the house top crying "Croup, croup, croup. "That's a bad omen," said David, shaking his head, "for inauguration is from 'avium garritu' (signifying the chattering of birds); the 'corbie' is black and so ominous, and who could not read rightly what the bird spake, it would be found to be 'corrupt, corrupt, corrupt.'" He was very felicitous also in another speech which he delivered only a year before his death. It is Woodrow who tells us the story. The King saw that David and his co-presbyters would have nothing to do with bishops, so he tried a new device by moving the Assembly to grant power to ministers to vote in Parliament. Ferguson was by this time the oldest minister in Scotland, it is said, but he stoutly opposed the King's proposal. He told them it was like the Trojans taking down their walls to bring in the wooden horse, by which they were destroyed, and concluded with the singularly appropriate quotation from Virgil

"The enemy is concealed within,
Trust not the horse o' Trojans."

So far as his labours in Dunfermline are concerned, it is only occasionally that we get a glimpse at Ferguson engaged in active work. At one time we see him making an effort to get John Henryson to "abstane fra all forder teiching within the Grammar Schole," in Dunfermline. We are not furnished with Ferguson's motives, but as the school at this time (1573) an adjunct of, and actually within the Abbey, and as Henryson was very eager to show that "he had made professioun of the trew kirk, never teching or utheryis moving any thing to the sklander of the Evagell." we can without difficulty understand the old man's motive. He wanted public schools and not monastic seminaries. He did not succeed then in his purpose, but he lived to see the educational system of the country much improved. In this improvement, Dunfermline would doubtless participate, and I notice that in subsequent years he numbered amongst his friends the two masters of the Grammar School of Dunfermline. Ferguson was the last man in the world to shut up any school unless for the purpose of putting a better in its place. For it must be clearly understood Ferguson was an ardent educational reformer, and I should have signally failed in the treatment of my subject if I did not make this quite clear. Although he knew little of College lore, he knew his own language well, and laboured hard and successfully to refine, and otherwise improve his mother tongue, then much neglected by scholars. His achievements in moulding into proper shape the Scottish language have indeed been extolled in a poem written by John Davidson, a co-reformer. As this poem compares the homely old man to Nestor for wisdom, and Demosthenes for eloquence, we are glad to notice it was not written until after he had reached that clime where we may presume

blushing and all other painful experiences are unknown. When, however, it goes on to speak of his success in improving the vernacular, it ceases to exaggerate, and states the simple truth. I notice that in his will Ferguson specially mentions his "Scottis Chronicle." What did he mean by this? Dr Henderson says that the Scottis Chronicle refers to the "Scottish Proverbs," which, we shall see, was afterwards published. I am not an antiquarian, but is it not possible the worthy annalist is wrong in this statement? That Ferguson did leave behind the manuscript of his proverbs is true enough, but he also left behind another manuscript - viz., a history or narrative of the kirk from the Reformation to his death. As to this there is no doubt whatever, as it is specially referred to by Row at the beginning of his history, and was doubtless utilised by him as the foundation of his own work. Is this not much more likely to have been what the old man meant by his "Scottis Chronicle?" It is difficult to imagine why he would describe a collection of proverbs as a "Chronicle." Far be it for me to depreciate the value of his Scottish proverbs. To collect and arrange in an orderly manner the proverbial philosophy of his native country was evidently to him a labour of love. "Changes of works are lightening of hearts," says one of those homely maxims. So apparently Ferguson found it in his old age, when he was not so able to fight hard battles as he was wont. He was not the man to be wholly idle, even in his declining years. His own writings and speeches were often embellished with the mellow fruit of Scottish fireside philosophy, and I doubt not his familiarity with his country's folk-lore enabled him more readily to keep touch with his people than a profound acquaintance with the ancient fathers would have done. "An ounce of mother wit is worth a pound of clergy," is one of the proverbs which he often exemplified in his own person. The "pound of clergy" was generally stowed away carefully in some lockfast place in David's house. I fancy he used the commodity very sparingly even in the pulpit. There are many old friends in that collection of his, such as the maximum which indicates the impossibility of making a silk purse out of a certain animal's auricular appendage, the desirability of being a little deaf when you do not want to hear, and as to the advantage of having a long spoon when supping with a certain sable personage, &c, &c. There are others, however, which are not now so common, but are instructive in connection with Ferguson's life work in showing how Popery and Prelacy were regarded by the common people of his time. For instance, in "Pennyless souls may pine in purgatory," what a commentary we have upon the sordid spirits that animated the Romish Church in its latter days. He once told his hearers that he would they had angels for their ministers "gif they were worthy of thame." He laid no claim to the angelic attributes. It had been arranged that they should be "servit be the ministerie of men," and doubtless if we knew all we would discover faults in his character. I can only say that we have not discovered any unless, indeed, we except the charge brought against him that he used pepper instead of salt to his beef. This alarming charge against him emanated to be sure from a hostile quarter - the author being a Jesuit of the name of Hamilton. The awkward thing is that the charge does not appear to have been denied although pepper was then a very costly luxury, and fit only for Popes and Cardinals. The real truth probably is, as McCrie observes, that there was too much salt and pepper in Ferguson's writings for Popish stomachs. Mr Gorrie, after referring to Ferguson's descendants, brought his lecture to a close in these words: - We have seen that Ferguson could indulge in pleasantries of speech, but I hope no one shall carry away the impression that he was a mere jester. That would be very far indeed from the truth. Knox was not the man to

thank God for a mere buffoon. A very little insight reveals the heroic elements of his character, and the deep seriousness underlying his words and actions. Like the great leader, he "never feared the face of man." Living in an age of great movement when the deep forces of society were released from their long inactivity, he was emphatically a man for the time. Every age has its own difficulties to overcome, its own trials to endure, its own battles to fight; but it is well perhaps to be reminded of what was done by Scotland's truest son's in her hour of deepest darkness and peril. Whatsoever is great and noble in the subsequent history of our country is largely owing to what was achieved by Ferguson and his co-labourers. They gave ungrudgingly the best they had in the sacred cause of God and freedom, we would be very poor creatures indeed if we refused to love and cherish their memory because we do not now approve of everything said and done by them. What the religious future of Scotland is to be God only knows, but we have need at least to be animated by their spirit of fearless courage, and like them to have our faces ever towards the dawn.

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OCTOBER 26, 1889

THE VILLAGES OF COWDENBEATH AND LUMPHINNANS

COWDENBEATH COAL COMPANY'S MINING OPERATIONS.

Few industrial villages have made more satisfactory progress than the village of Cowdenbeath has done during the past 20 years. In its earlier struggles for existence the village only progressed to a very moderate extent, and a considerable number of years had elapsed from the date the first house was built until the time when it could be said that the little hamlet stage had been passed. About 20 years ago, however, the Cowdenbeath Coal Company began to exhibit greater signs of enterprise, and in 1870, when Mr H. Mungall occupied the post of managing partner, the evidence that the works would be further developed soon became apparent in every department. The great trade revival began in 1871,

And Grasping the Situation

Mr Mungall and his company set their faces to the task of extending their operations in the mines. As the work of development preceded the housing accommodation grew in extent, and in something like five years the population was doubled. The progress received a slight check in connection with the great depression which followed the high wage period, but during the past five years the village has positively grown by

Leaps and Bounds

At present houses are being erected at every turn, and one exceedingly satisfactory feature is the fact that a considerable number of dwellings built recently are owned by industrious workmen. In several of the streets Mr Mungall has made a departure which we hope to see adopted in all the industrial villages of the future. Recognising the absurdity of crushing large families into "but and a ben", Mr Mungall has erected quite a number of houses of three apartments, and has introduced all the conveniences which are to be found in houses of similar size in towns. The minerals of Foulford and Lumphinnans fell into the hands of the Cowdenbeath Coal Company in 1883, and since then the hamlet of

Lumphinnans Has Been Transformed

into a village of considerable dimension. Old Lumphinnans was built at a time when crude notions existed as to the housing of the miner, and out of the 84 families who lived in the hamlet no fewer than 66 were crowded into single rooms. The Cowdenbeath Coal Company, however, at once set their faces to the task of reform, and soon had the 66 single rooms converted into modest rooms and kitchens. The additions to dwellings have not by any means ended the doubling of the single houses.

Upwards of 100 new houses have been built by the company, and as at Cowdenbeath, care has been taken to provide large families with houses of three apartments, with scullery and all modern conveniences. The Cowdenbeath water has also been introduced into the village, and before long it is hoped that a complete system of drainage will be carried out. At present the nearest railway station is at Cowdenbeath, but a

Station For the Factory Trains

will be opened in the course of the next few weeks. The vast majority of the miners daughters are employed at the Dunfermline factories, and a strong desire has of late been expressed to bring influence upon the railway company to stop the factory trains at Lumphinnans. Mr Mungall recently brought the matter under the notice of Mr Walker, the general manager of the railway company, and the request has been complied with. The ground for the platforms has already been staked off, and in view of the approaching winter, and the discomforts the girls experience in travelling to and from Cowdenbeath, the work will be pushed forward with the least possible delay. The reason for the increased house accommodation at Lumphinnans is not far to seek.

No 1 Pit Has Been Sunk

to the Dunfermline splint, or the lower seam, and by cross-cutting through the strata to the "dip" a capital hold has been obtained of the "five-foot," "mynheer," and "Lochgelly splint." All the seams have been found to be of average thickness common to the county of Fife. The qualities of the "Dunfermline splint" as a household coal are well known, and better steam coal than the "five-foot" and other seams could not be desired. The cross-cutting gives the management the advantage of running coals into the bottom of the seam. At present the output of the pit is 300 tons per day, but when the coalfield, 1000 acres in extent - is properly cut out it is fully anticipated that the management will be able to

Wheel at Least 600 Tons Into The Bottom

of the shaft. The old winding machinery would have been no use for this, and fully alive to the situation the company have fitted up a pair of handsome horizontal coupled winding engines. The drum is 50 feet in circumference, and by means of double cages from 20 to 30 cwts. of coal are raised every run. The distance of 180 fathoms is covered in 25 seconds. The old pumping gear has also given place to a pumping engine of the latest invention. One engine is compound double-acting with 36 and 54 inch cylinder, a thirteen feet stroke and is capable of raising at least 180 gallons of water to the surface every stroke. Steam is supplied to the whole machines by ten Galloway tubular boilers, and the furnaces are fitted with

Sinclair's Patent Mechanical Stokers.

The patent is a most ingenious contrivance, and is a great saving on manual labour. The fire coal is run into a long run of receivers, resembling huge "fillers", and day and night the mechanical stokers feed the furnaces, and reject the ashes with an exactness

which entitles the patent to be designated a genuine success. One of the most satisfactory features of the patent is the fact that the smoke which blows from the chimney is not more than a fifth of what would come from the ordinary process of firing. The company have introduced the steel hutches for conveying the coals from the working places to the surface, instead of the wooden hutches. The steel is stated to be a great improvement from every point of view. Turning from Lumphinnans to

Foulford

the visitor finds that since the Cowdenbeath Coal Company acquired the estate one of the pits has been fitted up with every modern appliance. The pit has been sunk to the "Dunfermline splint" and other seams, and a splendid hold has been taken of the 150 acres of fine coals which are known to exist in the vicinity of the shaft. At the new brickwork bricks are being turned out in their thousands for the Coal Company's own building operations. At the company's works at Cowdenbeath, work is going on briskly, and an innovation has just been introduced in the shape of

The Electric Light

The light has been introduced at two pits - Nos. 3 and 7 - the workshops, and the colliery office. The dynamo has been placed in the ventilating fan engine house at No. 3 Pit. The fan is continually in operation, so that the motive power can be obtained at comparatively little cost. The Edison-Swan incandescent lamps have been introduced all through, and at the entrances to the workshops and other places where additional light is necessary, there lamps are put together. At every turn it is apparent that a more successful innovation has never been made at any colliery. On the pithead the naphtha "showman" has been discarded, and instead of a light which gives no end of trouble in stormy or gusty weather, the operatives have a light which gives them no concern although a hurricane is blowing. At the screen, where people are engaged in rejecting any stone which might by accident get mixed amongst the coals, the light is of the greatest possible service, and in shunting wagons in the dark mornings the shunters will be able to do their work with greater facility and, certainly, without much risk of accident. In the workshops the big oil lamps have been boycotted at every bench and anvil, and the brightness of the new light in absence of the heavy oily smoke which used to hang about makes the place much more healthy, bright and cheerful. A new colliery office has been built, and here the electric light has been introduced with great success. In answer to questions, Mr Mungall stated that light was steady. He had much more light than he could possibly have from paraffin, and he felt no evil effects to the eyes. The experience of the clerks in the office and the workmen in the shops was the same. One hundred lamps have been introduced at the colliery altogether, and as time goes on there is every possibility that the company will see their way to introduce the electric light into all their works. The apparatus was fitted up by Messrs Flemming & Company, Teviot Place, Edinburgh. The 100 lamps were fitted up at a cost of a little over £200.

The Extent of the Cowdenbeath Company's Undertakings.

will be apparent when it is stated that it is computed that the annual output of coal will be at least 350,000 tons. As the development of the Lumphinnans and other minerals goes on this total should be added to, and the probability is that the annual average output will reach 500,000 tons. A critical examination of the coalfields of the district shows, that judged from the point of view of quantity and quality, the subject is one of the best in Scotland. That Mr Mungall is fully alive to the nature of the subject is apparent from the progress of the past, and if additional evidence was required it would be found in the innovations referred to in this article - innovations which certainly indicate a desire to keep the colliery abreast of the times. Mr Mungall is a strong supporter of the

Kirkcaldy and District Railway

and Seafeld Dock Scheme. At present the distance between Cowdenbeath and Burntisland is 21 miles, and the distance between Cowdenbeath and Seafeld would be eight miles. The short distance it is contended, would be an enormous advantage to the West Fife Collieries, and the great depth of water to be obtained at Seafeld, as compared with Burntisland, would place steamers at the command of the Fife Coalowners which they cannot get at present for want of depth in the fairways. The importance the coalmasters of Fife attach to the new undertaking will be apparent when it is stated that 500,000 tons of annual traffic are guaranteed as follows: -

	Guaranteed Last Year Tons	Output Tons
Lochgelly Iron and Coal Company	165,000	336,000
Cowdenbeath Coal Company	165,000	342,000
Donibristle Colliery Company	60,000	92,000
Denend Colliery Company	70,000	59,000
Dundonald Colliery	20,000	30,000
Cardenden Colliery (present output at the rate of)	20,000	20,000
	500,000	879,500

An article bearing more or less directly on the rise and progress of Cowdenbeath would not be complete without reference to

The School

The average attendance at the school is fully 900, and at present there are no fewer than 19 teachers. The class rooms are admirably planned. Every care has been taken to avoid the common error of too large rooms, and hence it is that the teachers have every facility for dividing the standards. Judged by the Inspector's report, the school is always in an excellent condition, but it seems to us that there are one or two reforms which the Board would do well to allow a teacher to enforce. The time table, which

admits of the senior pupils being engaged from 9 A.M. until 4.50 or 5 P.M., is much too elastic, and what is needed is that the Board shall ask the teachers to cease frittering away time on the Shorter Catechism, and reduce the hours of attendance. Mr Lindsay, the head teacher, would be delighted to have done with the Shorter Catechism work. it is nothing but mistaken sentiment that induces the Board to insist on the Shorter Catechism, and we hope that the next meeting the members will see that they are performing one of their duties to the children in relegating the "proofs" to the home and the Sunday school. The Catechism can only be taught by adding to the hours of attendance, and this is a state of matters which the parents of Cowdenbeath should on no account tolerate. In view of the indefinite statement of the Government as to the probable Probate Duty Grant after the first six months, Beath Board resolved only to abolish fees up to and including the fifth standard. The Board did not see how the fees could be abolished from the top to the bottom of the school without a considerable addition to the rates. The average attendance of scholars above the fifth standard is forty, but in a school of an average attendance of from 900 to 1000 the sixth and ex-sixth pupils ought to be at least 80. The Boards resolution, namely, to exact fees from the higher standards can have only one result. It will reduce the higher standard pupils as sure as fate. In an ordinary school this would have been the tendency, but in Cowdenbeath the protest against fees in the higher standards will take a much more alarming form than might be expected in any ordinary village. In Cowdenbeath the parents have never been accustomed to paying fees - a deduction having by consent been made at the colliery pay-table for education. The deduction was made from the pay of every workman, and the total was found to be such at the close of the year as to enable the School Board to dispense with all fees. What the School Board must aim at is to make the road to higher education easier, not more difficult, and the complete abolition of all fees would in the long run be found cheapest for the village. Anything that give countenance to the idea that a child who has passed the fifth standard has received a "liberal education" - an education which will enable him to fight the battle of life with credit to himself and his parents - must be carefully avoided. Until the Government recognises this, School Boards must face the difficulty of providing the necessary funds from the rates.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1898.

A FIFESHIRE "KLONDYKE FEVER".

One is inclined to look back and feel some degree of amusement at the craze or gold fever which set in for a brief period about fifty years ago, regarding gold ore which was said to have been found on the Lomond Hills, near Kinross. This craze was but of brief duration and on a comparatively small scale, but it had many of the peculiarities of the modern "Klondyke fever" we now hear so much about. It lasted only a week or two, but it brought in many hundreds of persons from different localities in Scotland, who came eagerly in search of the precious metal, and who, alas! returned to their homes sadder and wiser than they had come.

The origin of the fever was this. One day a person who had been for a time at the gold diggings in California, was sauntering over the Lomond Hills, near Kinnesswood, by Kinross. He was struck by the apparent similarity of the formation of the hills and rocks and all the nature of the soil in Fifeshire as compared to those he had seen in California. This circumstance seemed to have made a powerful impression on him, and led him to make some investigations which convinced him that gold might be got in that locality. He discovered some yellow-looking grains of apparently a metallic description impregnated with the soil, and he pursued his investigations quietly from day to day. This unusual proceeding did not fail to arouse the curiosity of some one or two persons who got to know who he was, and that he had come from California, and who suspected what his object was for. His movements were now eagerly watched and commented on from day to day by the two or three persons who felt interested in such a vital matter. But an affair of this kind, of so vast importance, could not possibly be kept long secret, or within ordinary bounds, and so the news spread around the district, and then afterwards, far and near, like wildfire, and thousands of persons came flocking to the Lomond Hills. The sanctity of the Sabbath has in Kinross-shire been always well observed, but on one particular Sabbath day, when the gold fever was at its height, there were some thousands of persons clustering on the hills near Kinnesswood, all eagerly engaged in the search of the precious metal. As one eye witness said, the great Bishophill, "was black with the swarm of human beings," who had come from all quarters! There was no Sabbath that day in Kinnesswood! Almost every bit of bread in the village was eaten up, and high prices given for refreshments of any description whatever. In the extraordinary excitement that was produced, the craze resembled for the time being, very much like what we hear regarding the Klondyke diggings now, but on a very small scale. There was the same utter inattention to personal health and comfort, the same intense craving for gold evoked, and sacrifices willingly endured for the time being. One can now, even after the lapse of half a century, conjure up the little army of frantic gold-seekers squatting night after night on the hills, and burrowing and sheltering as best they could under heaven's blue dome; the silent stars looking pitifully down upon them and their proceedings all the time. But, in one respect, the brief Fifeshire gold fever was an utter and melancholy farce, for gold there was none!

One of the "diggers" who had, after much labour collected a quantity of what he considered the precious ore, sent some of it to Glasgow to an assayer to be tested, and it was found to be entirely spurious - a compound of sulphur quartz, &c., &c. The great gathering of gold diggers, after finding out their grievous mistake, betook themselves silently and sadly from the Lomonds, and almost with as much celerity as Rodrick Dhu's "Clan Alpine's warrior true" dispersed, as recorded in "The Lady of the Lake". It appears that in England the Crown has 'prima facie' the right to gold mines. In Scotland, by an ancient Act of 1592, the owner of the soil can demand a feu thereof from the Crown, on paying one tenth of the produce. In the case of the Lomond diggings, the eager diggers commenced their work without let or hindrance of any kind, and the locality was for the time being looked upon by the ardent visitors and the quiet villagers as a "no man's land," where everyone was at liberty to dig and delve where he pleased.

We have heard and read a good deal lately about the feats of Captain Nansen and his daring associates, and all the severe toils and hardships they courageously underwent in order to reach the North Pole. In thinking over this Klondyke matter we have been wondering if a report of the likelihood of rich gold mines being in the near vicinity of the Pole would stimulate the formation of a syndicate to undertake the mining business there, i.e., if there is land in that locality. Shakespeare has most appropriately described the eager pursuers of the precious metal as "saint-reducing gold".

It is doubtless an actual fact that gold is found generally distributed less or more over the earth's surface. Previous to the great California discovery of gold, fifty-one years ago, Europe was supplied chiefly from Mexico, Peru, Brazil, and North and South America, etc., etc. All these countries still produce gold, but only to the extent of one fourth of that received from California and Australia. Our own British Isles have also, to a small extent, produced gold. Wicklow in Ireland produced a quantity of the precious metal about the end of the last century. It has also been found in the highlands of Perthshire, also in Cornwall, and Devonshire, and likewise in North Wales.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1899

OLD CULROSS.

Approaching the quaint haven of Culross by way of the gigantic steel bridge that spans the Forth at Queensferry, the traveller is transported almost at a bound from the fierce competitive excitement of modern life into the hush and mystery of the dim religious past. Nestling under its woody heights, on the margin of a beautiful bay, and overshadowed by the grey tower of its ruined Abbey, the old borough town has an ideal situation, yet the stream of industrial progress that has borne many an obscure hamlet to wealth and importance has, strangely, left it in the still backwater. Seen across the blue waves the brilliant tints of its red roofs harmonise with the bright greens of its hanging orchards, while the soft greys of the distant Ochils meet and merge into the azure of the summer sky. Nearer, the picturesque buildings, reflecting in every architectural freak the sturdy independence of the ancient heritors, excite a keen interest, and the old Norman tower on the ridge is eloquent of departed grandeur.

Culross is associated with the earliest missionary efforts of the Scottish saints. Here, according to Wyntoun's chronicle, the elder St Serf spent his arduous life, and here, according to the explicit statement of his monkish biographer, St Kentigern was born. The personality of St. Serf has been hopelessly obscured by an adumbration of grotesque miracle, but his distinguished pupil has left many memorials of zeal, not the least conspicuous being that noble cathedral erected over his tomb on the banks of Molindinar Burn at Glasgow. A distinguished occupant of the Western Archiepiscopal Chair erected a memorial chapel in 1503 to mark the spot where his remote father in God - the saintly Mungo - began his illustrious career, and here, near the beach, stands its neglected ruins still. The site of

SERF'S RUDE CELL

is, in all probability, preserved by the ancient monastery, for veneration of holy ground was congenial to the spirit of the primitive Church. This stately pile, of which a mere fragment remains to attest its magnificence, was founded by Malcolm, Earl of Fife, in 1217, and here uninterruptedly through six hundred eventful years has the presence of the Almighty dwelt between the cherubim, and the message of salvation has been proclaimed. The edifice has suffered from the usual form of disintegration, from the gnawing tooth of time, from the iconoclastic fury of the Reformers, from the predatory incursions of sacrilegious raiders, and from the misdirected zeal of utilitarian renovators. The fine Norman tower is now surmounted by a bartizan which destroys its antique character, and the interior of the choir, used since the Reformation as a parish church, has been adapted to modern convenience with little regard to the preservation of its venerable features. Yet there lingers about the ruin a halo of far off days, a greatness that found expression in massive masonry, a devotion that overflowed in graceful arch and foliated capital. From the roof of the old tower a

magnificent prospect is obtained, embracing practically the whole basin of the Forth from the peak of Ben Lomond where its springs originate to the rocky Bass where its waters are lost in the ocean. Across the noble estuary lie the fertile fields of Lothian, backed by the far extended Pentland Range, while, underfoot, the pleasant southern exposure of the monastery gardens and the general adaptability of the site cannot fail to commend the excellent taste and practical skill of the shrewd Cistercian Friars. The

BRUCE MAUSOLEUM

is an interesting adjunct to the Abbey Church. It contains an imposing monument in alabaster erected to the memory of Sir George, whose elder brother became first Lord Kinloss, and whose commercial genius created the prosperity of the old town. The figure of the Knight reclines upon a sarcophagus, while statuettes of his children kneel in front. Within this crypt is also deposited the heart of the second Lord Kinloss, encased in a silver casket. The young gallant was killed in a duel by Sir Edward Sackville on Dutch soil in 1613. The existence of the relic was verified by Sir Robert Preston during the present century. The mansion house adjoining the churchyard has not only risen upon the ruins of the Abbey, it has usurped its very name. It was built in 1608 by the first Lord Kinloss either from a plan furnished by Inigo Jones, or in close imitation of his architectural style. Its owner - one of the Court favourites who accompanied his Royal master from the English capital - prospered under a monarch's smile, and, true to the instincts of his race, essayed to found a family in his native land. But whether from the lack of enterprise or by the frown of fickle fortune, the family decayed, and the spacious structure shared its fate. Although an imposing edifice it remains unfinished to this day. Two old houses to the west end of the town, associated with the same expansive period of its history, deserve attention. One is locally known as

"THE PALACE".

The date 1597 and the initials and arms of Sir George Bruce graven on its walls seem conclusive evidence against its claim to rank as a Royal residence; but, on the other hand, the enterprising Knight may only have enlarged and adapted a building which had a record stretching back to the days when Dunfermline town was the Scottish capital, and when a princely lodging by the sea in close proximity to the hospitable religious house was by no means an improbable contingency. The other building, bearing date 1611, and occupying the same court, was no doubt erected to accommodate some member of the Bruce family. Externally, the houses present no special features in a town where old buildings are common; but, internally, some features of their pristine grandeur remain. The principal rooms in the Palace, having a floor area of 360 feet, is over-arched by a concave panelled ceiling, decorated with allegorical pictures in oil. These, embracing Ulysses and the Sirens, and Fortune with her wheel, have a ethical significance emphasised by suitable scrolls in black letter. The corresponding room or banquetting hall in the other house is less elaborately painted, and both bear painful evidence of the neglect of ages. Other objects of interest are the quaint old building facing the Cross and known as the "Study", probably from a little secluded room on the top of its square tower where the medieval alchemist might burn the midnight oil undisturbed, and the Rosicrucian practice his

mystic with impunity; the Town Hall with its picturesque bell-roofed tower and its antique flight of outside stairs; the Cross with its time-worn pedestal; and the deserted pier, once the scene of busy activity. Culross owed its ancient commercial importance to three branches of industry that have signally failed it. The most notable of these was the

MINING OF COAL SEAMS

lying under the Forth. When the Reformation of religion had been accomplished, and the vexed question of the succession to the British throne settled, Scotsmen eagerly turned their attention to trade and commerce. It was then that George Bruce conceived the bold idea of sinking a shaft just within low-water mark, and pushing his operation forward under the bed of the river. He constructed a triplex protecting wall round the opening of sufficient strength and height to defy the combined effect of wind and tide, raised his coal, and loaded coasting vessels of light draught from the pit head. There was also a land shaft down which curious visitors were conducted, and then, to their no small consternation, brought to the surface apparently far out at sea. A tradition exists that James VI. himself underwent this alarming ordeal, and shook in his Royal shoes when his erudite head emerged above the waste of waters. But, in process of years the surface seams were exhausted, and other localities entering into competition under more favourable conditions the trade declined. A comparatively recent attempt to revive it by sinking a shaft on Preston Island, where a seam out-cropped, proved a great financial failure. A few years ago an effort to pump out the mine with a view to the resumption of work was equally futile. Next to coal mining the

MANUFACTURE OF SALT

by distillation was perhaps the most lucrative industry in Culross. If not actually originating in the same fertile brain, the trade received its first important impetus from the energetic Sir George Bruce. We learn from the narrative of John Taylor, the "Water Poet", who visited the district in 1618, that the output of white salt was then about 100 tons per week, which not only supplied Scotland, but was largely exported to England and the Continent. Here, again, misfortune lay in wait. The development of the rock-salt mining industry sapped the vitality of the old distillery trade, and the burgh received another backset. Sir Robert Preston, in his praiseworthy efforts to revive the prosperity of the old town, also attempted salt manufacture. The conspicuous ruins of Preston Isle, so often mistaken for ecclesiastical remains, are tangible evidence of his failure. The third distinguishing occupation of Culross was

GIRDLE-MAKING,

an employment monopolised under Royal authority, by the Incorporated Hammermen of the town. When oatcakes formed the staple bread of Scotland every household had its girdle, yet under the rigorous tyranny of the Guild the output was restricted and the price artificially inflated in defiance of economic law. Even in its period of greatest activity the worm was already at the root of the tree. National prosperity changed the social habits of the people. Wheaten bread came into more general use, and

professional bakers created a taste for the leavened loaf of modern commerce, which was baked in an oven. The monopoly in 1725, after extensive litigation, was declared illegal by the Court of Session, and, most disastrous of all, the Carron Company which produced a cast-iron girdle at a price that denied competition, was established in 1760. The industry perished beyond hope of resuscitation, and with it the peculiarities and privileges of old Culross.

Now an air of dreamy stillness broods over the ancient town, a note of hoary old sighs through its narrow, tortuous causeways and around its steep crow-stepped gables - the threnody of a departed race. The encircling orchards blaze in summer bloom, the lapping wavelets flash in opalescent sheen, but the imagination is overwhelmed by the pathos of mortality: -

"As by St Serf's lone tomb arise,
The dirges of the sea".

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1889

MEDICO-ECCLESIASTICAL STRIFE AT AUCHTERDERRAN

The parish of Auchterderran is in a state of medico-ecclesiastical strife at present. The miners by a large majority, at a recent congregational meeting in the Established Church, voted in favour of the appointment of Rev. A.M. Houston, assistant minister, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the Rev. P.M. Grant. The minority included the coal mining authorities. These convened a meeting of the representatives of the miners on Wednesday night, when the men were informed that after several weeks, the company would not collect any longer from their weekly wages the individual pence for the payment of Dr Fraser, who attended in cases of accident or sickness. It is stated that no explanation was given for this change. The miners aver that it is in consequence of their being in favour of the Rev. Mr Houston, and indignantly resent what they believe is meant as an evil punishment for their religious preferences. A great deal of unpleasant feeling has been generated throughout the parish, and the latest action by the minority has been strongly condemned.

The miners applied to Mr Weir, the general secretary of the Fife Miner's Association, for advice on the subject, and that gentleman addressed a large meeting in a field near Cardenden Station on Wednesday evening, men being present from Denend, Dundonald, and Cardenden Collieries, by all of which Dr Fraser is engaged. The first thing done by the meeting was to declare that the men were the employers of the Doctor, and that they meant to keep the right of engaging, dismissing, or retaining their medical officer as they had a mind to. In consequence of the action of the mine owners, the meeting appointed a committee of their own number, with instructions that they were to take the collection of the doctor's fees into their own hands.

Mr Weir, on being called upon to speak, said he did not wish to make himself a party to the quarrel over the collecting of the doctors fees; but he would say that he did not think any coalmasters, when they saw the men so unanimous in wishing to retain their doctor, would refuse to collect his fees. The coalmasters in question, however, had been accustomed to get things so much their own way that it would seem they had become very fastidious, and could not get either a minister or doctor to please them. It was a good thing that the minister's stipend did not depend upon the deductions from the wages, or the reverend gentleman would, no doubt, have been treated exactly as the doctor had been. In the latter case, however, the doctor would probably have been left alone, and all the difficulty would have been with the minister. It was a pity that such umbrage should have been taken at the doctor, in view of the unanimity amongst the men to retain his services, and the resolution they had come to collect his fees. They must, however, face the difficulty, and he hoped they would be faithful to their pledges, and support a gentleman that had given them much satisfaction. In his opinion, the difficulty they had to encounter would only tend to bring them nearer that stage of freedom and independence they were all so anxious to attain. The "Truck

Act" laid down the law, that wages were to be paid in full, but then the present pay sheets, which were signed on receiving their wages, authorised the deductions. If, therefore, they wanted to free themselves from these deductions at the pay table, whether for school fees, house rent, coal, or water, their safest course was to finish their present contracts and demand new conditions. In concluding, Mr Weir on one or two trade matters, and particularly on the agitation for a rise of wages, which, if not conceded soon, he said, was to be followed by a national strike, likely to be begun on the 29th June.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1889.

THE AUCHTERDERRAN ESTABLISHED CHURCH SQUABBLE.

COLLAPSE OF THE OPPOSITION.

The Kirkcaldy Established Church Presbytery met in the Auchterderran Established Church on Tuesday for the purpose of considering matters affecting the call to the Rev. A. McNeil Houston, M.A., B.D., the assistant whose election has caused so much excitement in the parish. The meeting was looked forward to with a great amount of interest and the miners of the district started work at three o'clock in the morning to enable them to suspend operations at 11 a.m., and be in the church at noon. By the hour fixed for the meeting the church became

Uncomfortably Filled.

Happily for the excited congregation, on a day when a tropical heat wave prevailed, the members of the Presbytery were forward in good time, and the moderator, the Rev. Mr Begg, Abbotshall, proceeded to business without delay. The Clerk intimated that since the meeting of a fortnight ago, the call to Mr Houston had lain at the house of Mr Barclay, Auchterderran, and here he produced a

Roll of Paper Several Yards Long.

Having rolled the formidable document down, he announced that the call had been signed by 730 members, adherents, and parishioners. The document once more put into a less bulky form, the Moderator proceeded to ask parties interested to come forward and table any objection they might have to Mr Houston's induction. After a lengthily pause the Moderator stated that Mr David Thomson, on behalf of the minority, had protested at the previous meeting against the election for reasons to be afterwards lodged. The reasons had not been lodged, and now was the only opportunity that would be afforded. Again silence reigned supreme, and after a brief interval it dawned upon the meeting that the minority had collapsed, and on the motion of the Rev. Mr Dobie, Kinghorn, seconded by Rev. Mr Dewar, Lochgelly, it was unanimously agreed to

Sustain The Call.

Loud applause followed the acceptance of the motion, and Mr Houston's induction was fixed to take place at Auchterderran on 3rd July at half past 12 o'clock. The congratulations were numerous when the proceedings terminated, and a deputation hurried off without delay to acquaint Mr Houston of the fact that he was practically the parish minister of Auchterderran.

"A Wee Keek Back"

The Cause of the Collapse.

The minority based their protest against Mr Houston's election on certain allegations. The "auld wives twaddle" was submitted to Counsel, and he quietly put his foot through the protest. So ends the squabble. There was no service in the church on Sunday - the third time since the row began.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1890.

COWDENBEATH TO BE A POLICE BURGH.

Sheriff-Principal Mackay has issue the following interlocutor in connection with the petition in which certain residents in Cowdenbeath asked that the village should be created a police burgh:

Edinburgh, 7th June 1890 - The Sheriff having considered the report of Mr Brown, assessor for the county of Fife, relative to the population included in the area of the proposed boundaries, and whole process, and having also heard parties and visited personally the said area; Finds that the district of Cowdenbeath and Foulford is a populous place within the meaning of the Act, 25, 26 Vict., C 101, and hereby marks out, defines and specifies the boundaries of said populous place as follows; - Commencing at a point on the south side of the Great North Road, situated six hundred feet north-east from the north well spring (which spring is situated at the junction of the road from Foulford with the Great North Road), south-westward along the south side of the Great North Road to the said junction of the road from Foulford; from thence westward along the south side of the said road from Foulford to the Kirkford Burn, where the said burn crosses the said road; from thence north-westward along the east side of said burn to a point situated four hundred feet along the burn from the said road from Foulford; from thence westward in a straight line to a point forty-five yards due north from the corner of the fence at west side of the road entrance to Frosty Mountain houses, where said road leaves the main road from Foulford to Kingseat; from thence along the west side of said road to the east gable of Frosty Mountain houses; from thence southwards in a straight line to a point in the centre of the Great North Road, two hundred and thirty-five yards west from the south-east corner of the Free Church manse wall, at the road which leads from the Great North Road to the farms of Mossie and Stevensonsbeath; from thence in a straight line to the junction of the parishes of Aberdour, Auchtertool, and Beath; from thence eastward along the south boundary of the parish of Beath to a point nine hundred feet to the east of the road from Burntisland to the Great North Road; from thence to the centre of the passing under the railway at Cowdenbeath sawmill; and from thence in a straight line to the point first above mentioned, Appoints the petitioners to lodge a map showing the above boundaries, which may be signed by the Sheriff as relative to the interlocutor, and decernes.

(Signed) AE. J.G. Mackay.

Note. - This petition which is presented by Mr John McArthur and more than the necessary number of householders is opposed by the North British Railway Company and Mr Laurence Walls of Moss-side. Mr Stenhouse as representing the property of Stevensonsbeath, part of which lies within the proposed area, and Mr Mungall for the Cowdenbeath Coal Company, which also has property within it, appeared and stated that they did not oppose the proposed boundaries if the ground of the Railway Company and Mr Walls was included, but that if it was excluded they claimed that their property should be so also. The population is reported to be 3306 and the

proposed area is 320 acres. The position taken by Mr Mungall and Mr Stenhouse may be due to the natural desire to spread the area for taxation if the Police Act should be adopted or to other causes unknown to me. I have before now had occasion to consider what effect should be given to this kind of conditional consent or conditional opposition which seems to recur in many applications for fixing boundaries.

I think I am bound to consider the merits of the claim made by the railway and Mr Walls to be excluded independently of it, but if I should be of the opinion that their claim to exclusion is not well founded, then the present petition is practically supported by what may be called both the burghal and the landward part of Cowdenbeath and Foulford, and I do not think I am so well able as the persons in the locality to fix the precise lines of the boundary. I have come to be of the opinion that neither the Railway Company's ground nor Mr Wall's should be excluded, and have therefore given the boundaries asked in the prayer of the petition. These boundaries undoubtedly take in a very large extent of agricultural or open ground. The Police Act of 1862 does not, like the Boundaries Act of 1857, lay down any proportion of existing or prospective building as necessary for the area of a populous place, and the practice has been to include a considerable portion of unbuilt on ground. This practice has been due probably to a variety of considerations of which the chief perhaps are that of owners or occupiers of land in the immediate neighbourhood of a populous place derive many advantages from that vicinity both pecuniary and otherwise, that it is important for sanitary considerations that there should be some open space round villages whose population is rapidly increasing, and that it is competent to have renewed application for the revision of boundaries.

If the criterion of feuing or building be not to test, but rather such considerations as have been above indicated, I think that the ground of the railway and Mr Walls is properly proposed to be included.

The Railway Company is a non-resident proprietor, but it undoubtedly derives important pecuniary advantages from the vicinity of Cowdenbeath. The property of Mr Walls which it is proposed to include lies close to one end of the village, and is comparatively small in extent; but I can scarcely doubt that both as residenter and proprietor he obtains some benefit, and is likely to obtain more from the same cause. In the present case the population consists mainly of colliers, and the agricultural ground proposed to be taken in is to a large extent the surface of the coal mines. I am disposed personally to think that this speciality is a ground for dealing liberally with the extent of the area to be allowed. But it is sufficient to say that neither of the objectors seem to me to have made a case for exclusion, and that all other parties interested concur in the proposed boundaries.

(Intld) AE.M.

Agents - for the petitioners, Mr Wm Simpson. For the objectors, Mr James Currie Macbeth, as representing Mr Laurence Walls of Moss-side and feuars in Cowdenbeath; and Mr John Ross as representing the North British Railway Company.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 1890.

OLD STAGE COACHES AND MODERN RAILWAYS.

Mr Alexander Stewart, the author of "Reminiscences of Dunfermline", contributes an article on "Old Stage Coaches and Modern Railways" to the United Presbyterian Magazine for August, from which we make the following quotations: -

The Marvellous Steam Engine

has transformed, and is transforming, everything in this country, and great improvements have been made on locomotives and railroads since they were first introduced, about the year 1814. The line between Liverpool and Manchester was, after the most bitter opposition, sanctioned by the legislature, and it was formally opened for traffic on the 15th September 1830. With Stephenson's improved locomotives, this line soon became a great success; and Stephenson himself was, in his day, the master spirit of the great railway movement in the country. For a long time the new mode of travelling made slow progress, and it was after much and bitter prejudice that the country emerged from the old mail and stage coaching system. The rate of speed on some of the railways was at first very different from what it is now, and they had nothing like the same amount of comfort that we have on all our lines. A good many years ago, and at the time railways were being introduced into some of the country districts of Scotland, there appeared an article in one of the leading weekly Scottish periodicals, entitled "The Innocent Railway." It gave a very humorous description of the slow, snail-like rate of

Travelling On a Fifeshire Line.

It was said to resemble a "slow funeral procession" more than anything else. The present writer had occasion, many years ago, to make a journey on a railway in Fifeshire, not far from the Rumbling Bridge, and there was an entire absence of the fluster and excitement that one sees on some lines now-a-days. After the train had started, with its six or eight passengers, an old lady made her appearance in the distance, waving her umbrella for it to stop; which was done, and she was "taken on board," as the Americans call it. I remarked to my friend with me, and who was acquainted with this particular railroad, that I had never before seen a train stopped to pick up a single passenger in this manner. He quietly said that this incident was not at all remarkable. He then informed me that, on one occasion, on this same line, a woman had, a few weeks previously, been going to the market with a quantity of fowls, some of which had unfortunately broken loose, and had escaped out of the carriage window. This incident had been observed by the watchful guard, who soon caused the train to be stopped, and he, along with the fireman, generously ran across some fields, and after some trouble, captured the straying fowls. They were then restored to the grateful woman, and the train proceeded comfortably and leisurely on its way - the railway officials, doubtless, feeling that they had performed a most

benevolent and meritorious action.

The Charlestown Tramway.

The date of the origin of the tramways is uncertain, but one or two lines were in existence in some of the mining districts of England about the year 1649. They came into partial use about a hundred years afterwards on the coal lines of England, and also in Scotland. So early as 1745 one of those Scottish tramway lines was in operation between Tranent and Cockenzie. There was also, about the beginning of the present century, a line of railroad laid by Thomas, Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, to convey coals from his collieries to the port of shipment in Charlestown, Fifeshire. This nobleman possessed great public spirit, and was also known to fame as the importer and possessor of the Elgin Marbles, which now adorn the British Museum; and he had the honour of being, for a number of years, British ambassador at foreign courts. This early Fifeshire tramway for coal wagons was looked upon with admiration as a most wonderful piece of engineering skill. It was a single line, and had siding at different stages, to enable the trains of wagons, drawn by horses, to pass each other. There were one or two steep inclines on the road, down which the weight of the coal-laden wagons drew up the empty ones by means of gins placed at the top of the inclines. This railroad was a great advance in the mode of conveying coals, and afforded greater facilities for shipment. At first the rails were of wood, on which strips of iron were nailed, but afterwards they were replaced by rails of cast-iron, about four feet long, which rested on loosely-fitting cast-iron chairs.

The Charlestown Carriage - A Sovereign Remedy for Rheumatism.

As time passed on it was deemed advisable to put a carriage on this particular line, in order to accommodate passengers going to and from the Stirling and Granton steamers. This 'bus was drawn by one horse, and was considered at the time as a rather bold venture. The first carriage was utterly unlike anything that can be conceived of in connection with modern railway or tramway travelling. This carriage or 'bus was painted a dark colour. It had some small windows, but nothing on it to promote proper ventilation, and it had to be ascended by a number of steps. The driver, while seated on his lofty perch, was indeed monarch of all he surveyed; and whenever a train of coal wagons was met by him, they had to give way to the coach, and turn back to the nearest siding to let him pass. A railway journey on this short line was something to be remembered, for, in consequence of the short, badly jointed, clumsy cast-iron rails, the jolting was most extraordinary, and told seriously upon those who were aged or infirm. At the same time it was said to be a sovereign remedy for rheumatism. We must, however, not be too hard on the old-fashioned ungainly chariot of those bygone days, for was it not one of the precursors of the gigantic railway system we now have on all hands? Was it not one of the many humble forerunners of that great system which is now girdling our globe, and bringing different races of mankind into closer contact and fellowship with each other? Our present railway system means, on the whole, advanced civilization, increased comfort, wealth, and progress, with their attendant blessings. Without steam and railways no Forth or Tay Bridges could have been, and no Suez or other great canals would have been projected. What an amount of comfort there is now on a railway journey, say

between Edinburgh and Glasgow, as compared to the old coach a canal system of sixty years ago! By rail we can go from the one city to the other in an hour's time, whereas in the old stage coaching days it took about six hours to accomplish the journey. By the Forth and Clyde Canal, with its thirty-nine locks, it took more than double that length of time to go betwixt Edinburgh and Glasgow. People living on the north side of the Firth of Forth, and in the West of Fifeshire, who were desirous to go to either of those cities, usually travelled on foot to Lock No 16, near Falkirk, where they caught the canal boat, and made a tedious and often an uncomfortable journey. One of the

Advantages of the Modern Style of Travelling

is the extraordinary punctuality that is observed in the departing and arrival of our trains, and this is, in many cases, an incalculable blessing. For example, even Cunard and other steamers, leave port whatever be the state of weather, and on the day and very hour advertised; whereas, in the olden time, and only sixty years ago, vessels only sailed when the wind and weather permitted. In some instances, passengers who wished to go even from Glasgow to Greenock by sailing boat, had to wait a week till the wind and weather changed. But it must not be forgotten that amongst

Some of the Drawbacks

connected with modern travelling is the general indisposition that is creeping in upon us, especially those of us who live in towns, to do any locomotion except by tram, bus, or rail. The probable result will be that the limbs of the people will greatly degenerate for want of active exercise, and be unfit for anything in the shape of moderate pedestrian journeys. This, according to Darwin's theory, will be the certain result. Young and vigorous persons of both sexes will now scarcely go any moderate distance without the aid of a street car or 'bus. The young and rising generation will scarcely be able to credit the fact, that sixty or seventy years ago a journey on foot of from twenty to forty miles was not deemed a very serious undertaking. It was in these days the ordinary mode of locomotion with the great bulk of the people, and time was not so pressing as it is now.

Goods Traffic.

Whilst the passenger traffic has enormously developed in modern times, the facilities afforded for the transmission of goods have also increased a thousand fold since the old coaching and slow carrier days. All this is tending to the social and commercial welfare and comfort of the teeming populations of the earth. It is bringing them nearer together, and thus binding more closely all nations and kingdoms, and is hastening the time when

Man to man the world o'er
Shall brithers be for a' that.

Railway Traffic of To-Day

While there were in the United Kingdom, in the year 1854, one hundred and eleven millions of passengers, there were in 1888, seven hundred and forty-two millions. The gross receipts from railway traffic of all kinds in 1854 amounted to about twenty millions of pounds sterling, but by 1888 they had increased to upwards of seventy-three millions of pounds, and the amount is steadily progressing. The paid up capital has risen from two hundred and eighty-six millions in 1854, to eight hundred and sixty five millions in 1888.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1890.

TORRYBURN RACES OF FORTY YEARS AGO.

(By One Who Was There.)

Squatting on the ground, we lay and watched the various bands come in from Dunfermline and the west, and marked by unmistakable signs the mission which animated the leaders in each. Thrashy Bob and Sooty Gibb were there with supplies of the "real cinnamon candy rock," and began business at once. Slackbrecks displayed a variety of spunks and laces; others, with various coloured boxes and curious packages, claimed rank as itinerant merchants, while more ambitious visitors trundled two-wheeled barrows filled with berries and other fruits. Sunburnt men and women carried huge baskets of crockery, and there were numbers more with wonderful pastes, miraculous powders, and liquids of transcendent powers, in the way of curing toothache, clearing the complexion, rooting our corns, polishing furniture, or removing warts. Squeaking fiddlers and shrill fife players were already hard at work. The familiar sounds of the hurdy-gurdy were freely mingled with those, and the sonorous skirl and drone of the bagpipes were also torturing the air. Presently the native bellman announced that the

Fair Was Now Opened.

and warned "all and sundry whom it might concern, to beware of sturdy beggars and stoot vagabonds; and especially of the well-known and notorious blackguard, known by the name of Slackbrecks." Slackbrecks himself heard the impeachment without concern, and followed the functionary with a few of his evil retainers. He listened with much solemnity to each proclamation of the Torryburn authority. One of the band soon managed to fasten a long trail of yellow paper to the skirts of the bellman, and his performance at one acquired an attraction for the juveniles of both sexes, which it did not possess before. How is it that every member of the gangrel fraternity comes to know the exact day on which this fair is held? The motley crew that now fill the one street of the village are still coming in seems to be gathered from every quarter of the country. Sure enough, the counties of Fife, Kinross, Clackmannan, or Perth never owned, gave birth to, fed, or housed, such a pack of ill-looking dogs. See that fellow with his

"Rowly Powly,"

how hang-dog he looks, as he bawls out the fairness of his game, and offers any odds to the country jockies standing round to "try their fortune; nothing beats a try." That other, with an earthen-ware basin, curiously poised, in which if anyone will but throw a penny he may get twopence in return. The thing looks simple and fair, and the Johnnyraws are aiming with all their skill to do what their neighbours cannot manage. But, alas! the penny will not remain in the basin, and the owner therefore picks up every flying coin. Already his hands are full, and possibly his pockets too, from stray

"A Wee Keek Back"

coppers from unthinking country yokels. There, too, are the inevitable thimble-rigger and garter pricker trying their most persuasive art to entice the wandering perambulators of the fair to "catch the corner" or "spot the pea." "Come now, gentlemen, all is fair and true and right above board; there is no chance for cheaters here.

Try Your Fortune, Gentlemen;

any sum you like, I'll double your offer, and give you the chance of two to one against myself. You take the pin and catch the double of the garter; look out for yourselves, gentlemen, as I twist it up before your eyes. Now try your fortune, gentlemen; nothing beats a try." Neither is his eloquence wholly lost upon the listeners around. Already scores of small sums have been lost or won - for sometimes these strolling gentry know how profitable it is on occasion "to throw a sprat to catch a mackerel."

Big Sums

are, however, occasionally lost, then quarrels ensue, fights succeed, in which the gangrels aid each other, and manage to square off their opponents, except where it come to a big row when mere weight of men and numbers become too much for the predatory crew; then away goes the garter table and pea stand into the sea - followed in posterior haste by their owners. With scenes such as these, the hours of the early day wear on. The sun is already "high in his meridian tower," and the denizens of the village and frequenters of the fair are rejoicing in his rays. Sonsy guidwives are trying their best to beat down the prices asked for tubs and buckets, and water stoups that are to form part, it may be, of the homely kitchen furniture, or of

Jenny's Plenishing

when Martinmas comes round. Cogs there are in plenty to supply the milk house, or adorn the pantry. The horner and tinkler are here also, each with his special stock of useful and the handy. Strong swart men stand round, guarding the tins and watching the spoons, while the women of their "gang" sit around, smoking short cutty pipes, or chaffing with their customers over the contested value of toasters and heaters; of watering pans and coffee pots; or of the indispensable articles of horn. Stands of boots and shoes, and pumps and slippers, invite the ardent attention of the sturdy ploughman, youths, tradesmen, and dainty lassies.

A Street Kiss.

With what delight these latter forgather wi' their joes! What "highly improper" conduct is indulged in the open street. What "fairs" of sweeties and gingerbread to Jenny, what smiles and blushes to Jockie, and what joy to all concerned. "Here's your fair, my bonnie lassie." "Haud aff your hands, Sandy, an' tak' yer fairin' to yoursel." "Oh! but ye'll tak' it for a' that, my bonnie dear; an' ye'll tak' that too," swinging his arm round he blushing fair, and doing what none else would dare, "Come o'er the gate noo; here's Robbie Salmon's gingerbread van, filled wi' his loadstane for catchin' virgins. Here man Robbie, gie me a bit sma' edition o' yer Mathie Henry for this

lassie's odification." "There you are, my birkie, and see the lassie has a fair chance to read the volume." Hear, hear, Robbie departed mirth-giver at our country fairs, and valiant salesman of the Lang Toon wares.

The Races.

But what's a th' meanin' o' th' commotion be wast th' toon? An' what's th' bellman oot for noo? Off we set to see and hear and join the eminent functionary, who was now inviting the attention of the lieges upon the all-important business of the day - the horse race. "Oh yes, oh yes! I tak' you all to wit and to understand, that the Torryburn Races will be run at the hour o' three o' th' clock, afternoon, at Torryburn Ness. Th' races are open to either horse, mare, or geldin'; but withoot three horses, nae race." Adding to this ancient proclamation the amount of the stakes and the entry money, this worthy baron bailie held on his way, dragging in his wake, all the flotsam and jetsam of the fair. Of course, we followed with the rest. Soon the

Crowds Along The Race Course

- merely the sandy beach - became as great as hitherto it had been in the street of the village; and the stand-keepers see with rueful looks the bulk of their customers following the bellman. A few of the more enterprising, lifting their stock in trade, hied them to the ness and plied their business there with hands and lungs, and with evident profit to themselves. Soon, however, the steeds were brought out - four in number - all displaying some of the finest gothic points. High projecting bones decorated their flanks; while carving in the shape of plain rib work adorned their sides. Spots of colour, patches of white, and hanging callosities ornamented their backs and shoulders, while their heads looked like the broken off ends of flying buttresses. Then the

Riders Were Men of Weight

and bulk; clad in blue bonnets, plush or moleskin jackets, ditto trousers, and heavy boots. These, saddling their surprised and evidently discomposd quadrupeds, vaulted, climbed, or struggled into their seats, and took their places at the east end of the course, and experienced no difficulty in keeping a fairly straight line till the signal was given to "go away." At that sign, off they started - all the four - for at that moment whip and spur and heavy whip shaft descended with unerring force upon sides, necks, flanks, and in short, upon every bit of hide of the poor brutes that had been brought out of the cadger's carts or sweetie vans to run the race at Torryburn. Away they go!

What a Mighty Cheer

rises from the crowd as the horses force a way along the wet and shining sand; and what a huge roar of laughter, as steed after steed displays his peculiar idiosyncrasy. One aims to reach the water, and is only prevented from committing an act of 'felo de se' by a heavy stick brought heavily across his indurated jaws. Another tries to reach the grass by slanting his course towards the brae, but his vigilant rider plies his whip

and pulls his reins with such great persuasive earnestness that rosinante turns again to his course, and to a better frame of mind. A third comes to a dead stand, and will not budge. He has already withstood an enormous amount of beating, whipping, and spurring; but no leather whang or jiggered heel will make him move. He inclines, if anything, backward, or sideways, or any way but the way in which the others have gone. One of the bystanders, entering in to the spirit of the scene, applies a second whip to leg and limbs with extraordinary rapidity and force. This process goes on till the poor, tortured animal, or, as his owner alliteratively names him,

"The Dour, Dould, Doited Brute,"

falls flat to the ground and lays his rider in the mud beyond. Meanwhile No 4 has gained the turning post, and is coming with a plunging, lounging, steady pace as if the day were his own. But the race is not always to the swift; for, lo! the foaming charger and sweating man come down all at once, and with the suddenness and celerity that fairly takes away the breath from five hundred nostrils, a treacherous "saft bit" in the sands received the far fore foot of the promising galloper, and ower he coups, snaps his imprisoned leg below the knee, pitches his rider a yard or two in front, and lays himself down with a low appealing groan to breathe his last in the midst of a heedless and jeering crowd. But the

Shying Horses

are coming in. Stand clear of the dying horse, and mind yourselves. Yes, there they are lumbering along more and more steady in their task, and in the line of motion. On they come, the crowd following in the rear and impeding the course in front. But yet another surprise awaits the Torryburn patriots of the turf. No 2 take his last and final shy, and bolts with maddened mein and rattling pace up the brae, and through the crowd till, fairly lost to the chances of winning, he leaves the way clear to No 3, who, with becoming propriety and solemnity of pace, draws into the winning post. Laughter and cheers greet his arrival there, and his rider pocketing the reward of successful horsemanship is declared the victor of Torryburn. Interested in the fate of

The Dying Horse,

we hasten along the now partially deserted race course and find him in the hands of three strong cadgers from the east. One of these plies a stout rope round the fallen chargers neck, another holds down the agonised head, while a third inserting a rack pin in the double of the rope, twists it round, shortens the bond and constricts the neck, till breathing becomes impossible. A few spasmodic kick, a few liftings of the half imprisoned head, and the old horse is no more - fit only for Michael Whyte's tan yard. A crowd of willing hands lift him into the cart which he has drawn for years; he is carried out of the fair and out of the village, and so with his departure, the race with all its useless and meaningless excitement is over. The afternoon is now far gone and so is the interest of the fair. All the douce and decent bodies of the country side are seeking their way home, only gallants gay, and gayer lassies linger in knots about the confectioner's stands or saunter in noisy groups along the roadway.

Slackbreeks

and his crew are now fully bent on "having it out" in fun and fury and downright mischief ere they go. A greengrocer's machine now emptied of its tempting berries and garden sweets is being driven slowly through the fair on its way to Crossford. Being brought to a standstill to give an acquaintance a "lift", the tie rope that hangs loosely over the side is quietly attached to the nearest stand, and Slackbreeks, skulking behind backs, waits the result. The cart moves off and the stand too. Its contents scatter themselves in all directions, and the bewildered owner, dragged along with the wreck, shouts in vain to the driver to stop. The rope, however, at last slips, as the portable shop falls into ruins in the middle of the street. The greedy crowd at once flounder down on the tempting stores, and speedily relieve the confused and confounded merchant of his stock-in-trade.

Cheap John

forgetting that the sun has gone down, and that the light is leaving him, still pleads for custom, and still offers the "best value in the world at the money." His show-board is run far out in front of his wagon, and his assistant, running out and in upon it, exhibits the wares that "John" so untiringly extols. Slackbreeks sees another chance. Quietly slipping near the outward end of the show-board, he edges out the trestle that supports it - down comes the assistant to the ground, tilting up the other end, and with it the wagon and its precious contents. Up go the trams in the air, and just as "John" has shouted, "going, gone," he disappears into the recesses of his wagon, and being buried in an avalanche of his own wares, closes the Torryburn fair of forty years ago. I have not touched in this rough sketch on

The Shows,

the merry-go-rounds, and the penny keeks that offered entertainment to the folks of Torryburn. But they were all there - the fat lady, the intelligent pig, the musical horse, and the whistling monkey, Bonaparte crossing the Alps, and Admiral Nelson fighting the French in the Bay of Naples, with Mount "Vociferous" in the background.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

JANUARY 4, 1890.

IN THE VILLAGES AND BURGH OF WEST FIFE.

THE STRIKING EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

Time was when days and weeks passed almost without incident in the Scottish village, and so quietly did the hours go by, that had it not been for the curfew bell tolling the "knell of parting day," the inhabitants of the little townships would have been unaware of the fact that the "day was far spent." It is different now, however. Even in most villages the stage coach has given way to the steam engine and life has been adapted to modern requirements. If in the "curfew" days it was well for the villagers to "talk with past hours," surely it was well he should call a halt once a year in those days when life goes like a steam engine rather than a weavers shuttle, and ascertain exactly the failures and successes of the year. In the

Burgh of Inverkeithing

a complete revolution has come over the Town Council. A great change was made in the personnel of the Council at the November election, and judging from what has transpired since the election, the infusion of the new blood has been for the better. Provost McDonald has been trying for a year to convince some councillor that they ought to bridle their unruly members, and now and again during the year he has made a serious attempt to transact the municipal affairs of the burgh without the usual hen cackling operation. Some of the new members are opposed to the cackling, and a fairly good beginning has been made with the work of reform. We hope that the Provost will encourage the reforming work, and will during the year meet wanton "outbreaks" of the "infectious" disease of gabble by a stringent application of the closure. Extensions continue to be made at the new paper works. At the Messrs Hay's tan works the hands are fully employed. Inverkeithing will form one of the junctions of the Forth Bridge Railway, and the inhabitants naturally look forward to the opening of the new railway with much interest. A good many of the Forth Bridge workmen, who were resident in the burgh, have left for Glasgow during the year. The School Board was bold enough to abolish the fees in all the standards, under the free education scheme, in Inverkeithing and North Queensferry schools, and the attendance fully justifies the course adopted by the Board. In

Townhill

the year has been one of marked prosperity. The prospects were not by any means hopeful in connection with the mining trade at the close of 1888. Muircockhall Colliery had just been stopped, and trade did not appear to be such as would justify the Townhill Coal Company to continue operations in the upper seams of coal beyond their present lease. Good trade has changed everything, however. Muircockhall Colliery has been let to Mr H. Ness, a gentleman who is carrying on the work with

great spirit and enterprise, and had coal been an article which was growing we should certainly have said that the Townhill Colliery was like the eagle - "renewing its youth". Under Mr Stevenson, the Townhill Coal Company are certainly taking full advantage of the brisk times - a circumstance which must be extremely satisfactory to the people of Dunfermline, who are interested in every pound of coal sold. The company have agreed to work the minerals after their lease expires, and are piercing the strata at several points with a view to get a greater hold of some of the seams of coal. Fully alive to the prosperity of the times, Rev T.E. Miller, of the Free Church and his managers have launched a scheme for the purpose of erecting a new church and clearing off the debt of the manse. Had the minerals of Townhill district been of an "unknown quantity," the scheme would have been certain to succeed; but the unpleasant fact that in a few years hence all that will be left of the pits will be half-a-dozen hungry gaping holes is against the proposal. We admire Mr Miller's pluck, and wish him every success, but the circumstances to which we have alluded make his task somewhat difficult. It is only fair to state, however, that the reasons which have induced the management to go into the matter require only to be known to draw a certain amount of support. The management feel that Townhill is only a suburb of Dunfermline, and state that although the minerals were exhausted to-morrow Townhill will always have a population. Money will not, it is held, be so plentiful when the coals have gone to smoke, and it is the duty of people at present, when money is plentiful, to provide church accommodation for the generation who will not have the advantage of the minerals. Mr Primmer continues to bracket the Pope with the devil, and last Sunday he discovered that much of the wickedness in Dunfermline was attributable to choir pic-nics and dancing Balls.

Kingseat

has participated in a religious revival during the year. Some of the methods of the evangelists are not altogether what the solid, steady, young religious man would like, but with all the vagaries some good work has been accomplished. We hope that the good will be enduring, and that the army of "converted" youths will by their walk and conversation, show others that they had cast in their lot with men and women who are convinced that

"Life's more than breath, and the quick round of blood;
 'Tis a great spirit and a busy heart.
 We live in deeds, not years; in thought, not breaths;
 In feelings, not in figures on a dial."

In the village of

Cowdenbeath

the year has been one of unusual activity. Under Mr Mungall the Cowdenbeath Coal Company continues to carry on their mining operations with a great amount of enterprise, and as the work of the developing coalfields goes on, the number of hands engaged in the mines is increased. The house accommodation at Cowdenbeath and Lumphinnans has been added to considerably, and the electric light, which was recently introduced at the Colliery, is proving a genuine success. Mr Anderson has vacated the Free Church and his place has been taken by Mr Muir, a young man of considerable ability. If the number of licences granted in a year can be accepted as a test of prosperity, Cowdenbeath must be in an exceedingly flourishing state - two additional licences having been conceded at the Licensing Court two months ago. The Cowdenbeath Football Club has done wonders during the year, and judging from the form shown against Leith Athletic on Saturday, the team promises to be one of the strongest combinations going. In consequence of the uncertainty attached to the probate duty grant, the Beath School Board did not feel justified in abolishing the fees beyond the fifth standard. It is difficult to account for the position taken by the Beath Board, and we hope that ere long they will see it to be their duty to follow the example of other Boards and abolish the fees from top to bottom of the school.

Lochgelly

At Lochgelly the outstanding item of the year is the struggle which arose in connection with the calling of the minister to the Parish Church of Auchterderran. The fight took the form of a struggle between the classes and the masses. The masses almost to a man and woman demanded that Mr Houston, the assistant, should be called, and this demand was opposed by a small minority. The minority moved heaven and earth, by way of opposing the election of Mr Houston; but when the presbytery met in the church to consider the question of calling a minister it was found that the opposition had fallen to pieces. The Presbytery accordingly placed the call in the hands of Mr Houston. A good deal of activity has been shown in political circles, and an organisation has been formed which is likely to play an important part in the political warfares waged by advanced Liberalism in the near future. The Lochore and Capletrae Cannel Coal Company have removed their operations to Benarty Colliery, and here a considerable number of men are employed. The Lumphinnans counterfeit coin was an exciting morsel in the beginning of the year.

Crossgates

A few years ago - so many pits were stopped - it seemed as if the village of Crossgates was destined ere long to go among the places that were. During the year, however, Crossgates has received a new lease of life. There is a probability that ere long the upper seams of the coalfields of Netherbeath will be let to an enterprising company, and at Hill of Beath and Dalbeath the Fife Coal Company are carrying on their mining operations with great spirit. The house accommodation at Hill of Beath is being added to, and every house in the village of Crossgates is let. The attendance at the Crossgates school has gone up with such a bound that the Parish of Dunfermline

Board have been forced to instruct the teacher to cease taking in scholars who are resident in other parishes than that of Dunfermline. We confess frankly that we hate this policy and should welcome a course of procedure which would bring Boards together to jointly formulate plans by which the educational machinery of the whole district would be rendered more effective. The exclusion expedient is a strong argument in favour of extending School Board areas and will doubtless hasten the day when a number of contiguous Parishes with a community of interest will be joined together.

Culross, Torryburn, and Cairneyhill.

Cairneyhill continues to be quite all the year through, and nothing has yet been done to revive the home industries of the past. During the winter months Torryburn and Culross looks as like as ever, a "deserted village." But in summer the visitors are so numerous that it is difficult sometimes to find sea-bathing quarters for a few days. Culross has been in arms at being disjoined from Perth, and thrown into Fife in connection with the County Council election. Why this should be, it is difficult to say. Culross has some interest in Fife and Clackmannan, but it seems to us that the ancient little burgh would be as well with a connection with Ayrshire as Perthshire.

This closes our "Echoes" of 1889. We hope that all our readers have spent a Happy New Year, and have begun work all the better for the brief holiday.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JANUARY, 3 1891.

ECHOES FROM THE BURGHS AND VILLAGES OF WEST FIFE - 1890.

1890 has witnessed a complete revolution in the bodies charged with the management of local affairs in the small burghs and villages of Scotland. Hitherto the members of County Boards were much like the members of the House of Lords; they could vote as they liked on any question, and pass a vote of confidence in themselves while comfortably seated with their feet on the hob by a cheery fireside. The Local Government Act has changed the customs of what are misnamed "the good old days," and the old Boards have given way to the

County Council

- a body which holds its power from the people, and which is directly responsible to the people. In the burghs and villages of West Fife the battle of the polls was got over splendidly - the number of votes in a good many instances being such as to indicate that the rural population were pleased to administer the trust which had been placed in their hands. One result of the operations of the Act has been to place the

Burgh of Culross

and district within the borders of the ancient "Kingdom". By a madcap boundary scheme of two centuries ago, Culross, through some cause or other, got attached to Perth county, and a desire to cling to old institutions induced a number of old residents to make a wonderful struggle for "leaving matters alone." The advanced nineteenth century mind could find neither "rhyme nor reason" in the Perth connection, however, and nothing approaching surprise was expressed when the Boundary Commissioners included Culross within the "Kingdom" of Fife. With Provost Macgregor at its head, the Town Council continues to wag along quietly. The burgh revenue is not large, and the Council takes care to cut its coats according to its cloth. The Dundonald Arms, which has echoed and re-echoed to the feet of many a weary wayfarer, has been razed to the ground, and a handsome new building to-day stands on the old site. Mrs. Donald has just taken possession of the new structure. At Newmills,

Torryburn,

Cairneyhill, and Crossford, the same peacefulness reigns supreme, as of old, and day after day and week after week pass without the occurrence of a single incident calculated to arouse the slightest excitement. Mrs. Balfour, the Torryburn centenarian, is braving the severe weather wonderfully, and enjoys astonishing health for a woman of such a great age.

The Burgh of Inverkeithing

has suffered badly by the completion of the Forth Bridge. Large numbers of people have had to leave in quest of work, and the streets of the burgh have now assumed the quiet Sunday appearance which they exhibited before the great bridge was begun. Natives still linger in the burgh, however, and we are glad to be in a position to state that the prospect of labour for working people are becoming brighter. Mr Hay's tan work is one of the prosperous industries of Fife, and the pulp paper work at the shore promises to be a large concern. A company has been formed with a large capital, the works are being reconstructed, and it is anticipated that operations will be begun on a large scale in the course of a few weeks. The pulp industry is a new one for the district - indeed, for Scotland; but the concern is in the hands of a body of gentlemen who are well qualified to make the business a prosperous one. The Council has got over its Ferry Hill and perplexing financial troubles, and starts the year with a substantial surplus. The new members elected in November were Dr Menzies; Messrs Andrew Hay, tanner; David Blelloch, wood merchant; and James Henderson, farmer. All the new members are good men, and the council will be all the better for the new blood. In consequence of the restricted area of the coalfields we are afraid that

Townhill

is destined ere long to be numbered among the villages of West Fife, whose glory is departed. Despite the fact that the beginning of the end of the coalfield has been reached, there is not the slightest sign of "change and decay" in the village. "Hope springs eternal in the human breast," and all the institutions founded during the last twenty-five years to keep the village abreast of the progressive times give evidence of that enthusiasm which has been their life since they were founded. There is no falling off in the Rev. Jacob Primmer's enthusiasm for the cause he has espoused. He has made Townhill more famous than the waters Parphar and Abana. He has repeatedly made the scarlet lady shake in her shoes during the year, and has inaugurated a crusade by which he hopes to clear the National Zion of the timber headed phonographs who appropriate other men's brains under the name of a liturgy. If Mr Primmer throws his whole soul into the anti-liturgy agitation and lets the Pope and the "roaring bulls" of the Abbey pulpit severely alone he will soon find he has got hold of a good subject. To use a phrase of the Rev. Dr Donald Macleod's, the people of Scotland are tired of ministers "strutting about the parish as if the parish had been made specially for them:" and if to all the deeds of omission a commission of a printed service should be added, things might become so intolerable that a free application of the scourge of the money changers might be necessary. Mr Primmer has also entered into a conflict with the Home Mission Committee of the Church of Scotland. Mr Primmer and the committee are far from agreeing on the figures in dispute as east is distant from the west. Meantime the Dunfermline Presbytery has been asked to arbitrate on the points in dispute, and until the arbiters have given their decision, comment could only make "confusion worse confounded." The industrious workmen of

Kingseat and Halbeath,

labour with the same dogged perseverance as of old. Extensive alterations have been carried out at the Kingseat Collieries during the year with a view to obtaining a greater hold of the minerals, and in every connection the new works are succeeding admirably. We hope to see the day when Messrs Wallace Brothers will turn their attention southwards and tackle the great undertaking by which the minerals which lie between the two villages are to be dragged from the bowels of the earth. The Messrs Wallace have recently re-acquired the minerals in the vicinity of the "Burnside" and "Netherbeath" old pits. The seams which lie still to be worked in this district make good household coal, and as the coming year advances the work of the development will be carried on with vigour and enterprise.

Hill of Beath, Crossgates, and Fordell.

Hill of Beath was at one time looked upon as a "suburb" of Crossgates; but under the Fife Coal Company the "suburb" promises to outstrip the "town". Hill of Beath is growing enormously. In Mr Rowan the Fife Coal Company have a capital man as manager, and we know of no man who could second the efforts of Mr Carlow better. The development of the Hill of Beath and Dalbeath minerals has raised Crossgates out of the decaying state it exhibited some years ago, and at present almost every house in the village is occupied. The Cullallo water scheme was giving great dissatisfaction to the villagers in the early months of the year. The villagers of Fordell remain true to their traditions, and through the love of flowers keep the village in a model condition.

Lassodie.

Operations have started at the two pits at Lassodie and things look cheery. We anticipate that Mr Brownlie will get a good hold of first class coals.

Kelty.

At Kelty all is prosperity. Sinking operations with a view to reach the minerals are going on all sides of the village; and ground for feuing purposes is much in demand. At present feus can neither be had for "love nor money"; but movements are being set on foot by which the extension of the house property will be allowed to go on without hindrance. A library has been started in the village during the year. The patronage bestowed on the institution is exceeding expectations. The committee will be delighted to have donations of books from good folk whose libraries are overstocked.

In

The Burgh of Cowdenbeath

the people participated in the Local Government Act, but the year had not been far advanced when a strong desire was expressed in favour of a wider measure of Home Rule. Mr Barclay and others agitated the adoption of the Police (Scotland) Act without stint or without ceasing during the summer months, and at a public meeting a few weeks ago Cowdenbeath and Foulford were inseparably joined together under the

title of the Burgh of Cowdenbeath. The duty now falls upon the ratepayers to elect more Commissioners. At a meeting on Friday of last week nine men were nominated for the vacancies, and those who are un-acquainted with the circumstances connected with the formation of budding burghs were inclined to congratulate themselves on the idea that a poll would not be necessary. The no-contest parties soon found that they had been just a trifle in advance with their congratulations, for by Monday morning the applications forms for nomination were so numerous as to suggest that the electors would have ample candidates to choose from. We are glad to notice that Mr Mungall, Coalmaster, has allowed himself to be nominated. The work to be faced before the burgh machinery is set in motion is enormous, and the Commissioners will have need of a man of some experience at their head. Mr Mungall is a shrewd business man, and has had experience of local government work as a Justice of the Peace and a County Councillor, and these two qualifications mark him out as the man who ought to be placed in the position of Chief Magistrate. The electors must see that his "calling and election" will be sure. A considerable addition has been made to the house accommodation of the burgh during the year, and the progress made with the fittings of the new factory, in course of erection by Messrs Erskine Beveridge & Co. is such as to suggest that the manufacturing of goods will be begun ere we have gone far into 1891. The Baptist congregation of the burgh have built a tidy little church. Under the Rev. Mr Muir the Free Church congregation has increased in numbers to such an extent as to make the building of a new church an absolute necessity. A capital site has been secured, and building operations have been commenced with the least possible delay. The United Presbyterian congregation have provided a manse for the Rev. James Gilmour, the minister, and a new church scheme is to be tackled as soon as the "times and the seasons" bring about its absolute necessity. At

Donibristle

the miners work away quietly from beginning to end of a year. A good many of the cottagers have followed the example of Fordell people in recent years. A wholesome rivalry in flower culture has improved the village considerably. In an out of the way place like Donibristle a small public library would prove a great blessing to the people. We commend the founding of an institution to the earnest consideration of our old friend Mr Nasmyth. Mr Williamson, the teacher, would be able to give Mr Nasmyth material aid in the forming of a library. At

Lochgelly,

Mr Landale continues to hold the post of Chief Magistrate, and he manifests the same zeal for education as he did of old.

The Fife Miners.

The past year has been the most prosperous which has been experienced by the miners since 1874. Steady work has been obtained at all the collieries, and wages have ranged from 5s 6d to 6s 6d per day. The year opened with the employers conceding an advance of wages to the extent of 12½ per cent. While the men accepted that rise as a compromise, they still contended that trade and prices warranted more, and

continued to press for a further 10 per cent. Trade, however, fell off slightly, and the 10 per cent agitation was abandoned. A strong effort was made in October and November to bring about an increase. A large number of warnings were lodged; but before the day of battle came, the notices were withdrawn, and instead of a strike, as some anticipated, work proceeded without a hitch. Little work has been obtained at the pits during the railway struggle. The year has been a prosperous one with the miners union. Since January, £3630 has been added to the union bank account, and this brings the total available assets of the union to about £8500. When the great strike occurred in 1877, the union funds amounted to £14,000.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1891

ALLEGED BREACH OF THE TRUCK AMENDMENT ACT.

Interesting Point As To A Colliery Doctors' Fees.

At the Dunfermline Sheriff Court on Monday, an interesting case came before Sheriff Gillespie, arising out of the recent dispute as to the appointment of a colliery doctor at Lochgelly. It may be remembered that a number of months ago the workmen employed by the Lochgelly Iron and Coal Company appointed a doctor; that the company declined to collect the fees for this gentleman, but appointed a doctor themselves; and that they induced men to have deductions for medical attendance made from wages. At the instance of Mr McFarlane, the procurator fiscal, the company was charged with a breach of the Truck Amendment Act. The libel set forth that the company "did on 25th June 1891, in the Nellie coal mine, belonging to them, in the parish of Auchterderran, impose as a condition of contract under which they employed Peter Watt, residing at Russell Street, Lochgelly, as a miner in said mine, that the sums paid by them for medicine and medical attendance for the said Peter Watt should be deducted by them from the wages payable to him, contrary to section six of Truck Amendment Act 1887, whereby the said Lochgelly Iron and Coal Company, Limited, are liable to forfeit a sum not exceeding £10, nor less than £5, in terms of section eleven of the said Act and section nine of the Truck Act 1831, but subject to the provision of section six of the "Summary Jurisdiction (Scotland) Act 1881." The company were represented by Mr John Connel, their managing director, and were defended by Mr Thomas Shaw, advocate, Edinburgh, instructed by Mr John Ross, solicitor, Dunfermline. Mr Macbeth, solicitor, and Mr Weir were present on behalf of the miners.

Mr Shaw said that before the accused was asked to plead, he wished to state an objection to the relevancy of the complaint. He might in the first place say, apart from the form of the complaint itself, that the question raised was one of extreme importance, because it was quite clear that the point at issue was one which would materially affect the management of the collieries and the interests of the miners themselves in a very important sense indeed. One could scarcely look at the complaint without fancying that the interests of the coal miners were here intended to be prejudiced in a way in which the miners themselves did not at present at all realise, but which would at once be realised if a judgment was given against the Lochgelly Company. It was perfectly manifest that if this complaint was a relevant one, there would then be thrown upon the miners and their organisation the whole burden of collecting the doctor's fees, and the distribution of the money, and there would require to be a sub-organisation whose duty would be to make arrangements not only for the medical attendance, but for the payment of the doctor. That was not the point at issue, but he thought it right to state it for the information of the miners.

The first remark he would make upon the libel was that it was admirably drawn for the purpose of bringing out the real point at issue. It was alleged that it was an indictable offence that the Company should deduct from the money which was due by them to the workmen the money which was due by the workmen to them. That was a very startling indictment, but there was no other reading of the complaint possible. If it was an indictable offence for a coal company to bargain with their workmen that the wages due should suffer a deduction to the extent of sums paid by the company for the workmen, the result would be disastrous to the miners, and would cause disorganisation at the collieries. He was entitled to say that the bargain here made was perfectly fair in itself. It was only the law of honest dealing. The complaint could only be justified by a reference to section six of the Truck Amendment Act of 1887, which said: "No employer shall, directly or indirectly, by himself or his agent, impose as a condition, express or implied, in or for the employment of any workman any terms as to the place at which, or the manner in which, or the person with whom, any wages, or portion of wages paid to the workman are or is to be expended, and no employer by himself or his agent dismiss any workman from his employment for or on account of the place at which, or the manner in which, or the person with whom, any wages or portion of wages paid by the employer to such workman are or is expended or fail to be expended." In passing he might say that these words were manifestly a copy of certain words in section two of the Truck Act of 1831. The words in the last mentioned Act were: - "And be it further enacted, that if any contract hereafter to be made between any artificer in any of the trades hereinafter enumerated, and his employer, any provision shall be made directly or indirectly respecting the place where, or the manner in which, or the person or persons with whom the whole or any part of the wages due or to become due to any such artificer shall be laid out or expended, such contract shall be and is hereby declared illegal, null and void." It would be observed that in section two of the 1831 Act the words were "the whole or any part of the wages due or to become due," while in section six of the 1887 Act, they were "any wages or portion of wages paid to the workman." He would produce authority to show that "wages paid to the workman" was something supplementary to section two of the 1831 Act - that in effect the whole purpose of this section was to insert this word "paid" in addition to the words "due or to become due" in the Act of 1831. The point of this indictment was that the company had imposed terms as to the manner in which a portion of the wages was to be expended. If they were left to section six he was afraid he should have to stop his argument; but there were one or two provisions which showed that this was not legislation by jerks but a continuous whole. The first section of the 1887 Act set forth that the Acts of 1831 and 1887 "shall be construed as one Act." That in itself was sufficient to displace section six as a section operative by itself, but there was more than that. While section six absolutely prohibited any deduction being made, strangely enough section seven began to recognise deductions, for the first clause read: - "Where any deduction is made by an employer from a workman's wages for education, such workman ... shall be entitled to have the school fees of his children.... paid by the employer." The deduction here referred to fell within the comprehensive terms of section six just as much as this alleged offence did, because it was imposing as a condition terms as to the manner in which some portion of the wages was to be expended. Going on to section eight, it would be found stated that "no deduction shall be made from a

workman's wages for sharpening or repairing tools, except by agreement not forming part of the condition of hiring." Now, that section was extremely important. His argument was that all other deductions recognised might be from wages, but this one as to sharpening of tools must be under an agreement not forming part of the condition of hiring. But he had a much stronger argument than that in section nine, because he found that that section referred to the very thing said in this indictment to be illegal. Section nine said: - "Where deductions are made from the wages of any workman for the education of children, or in respect of medicine, medical attendance, or tools, once at least in every year the employer shall provide an audit." Then, how could it be contended that if the statute contemplated an audit for deductions for medical attendance, it also contemplated that there could be no deductions for medical attendance? It seemed to him that if the Act provided for an audit for certain deductions, that that was a clear statutory authority to make those deductions. Within the four corners of the Act of 1887, therefore, he found that the comprehensive language of section six was taken away from it. The only question now was - did section six of the Act of 1887 create an offence, which did not exist under the Act of 1831? Was it now an offence to make a deduction for medical attendance?

The Fiscal - That is not the offence charged.

The Sheriff - It is the imposing as a condition.

Mr Shaw said that what he wanted to get at was whether the 1887 Act introduced any new illegal bargain.

The Sheriff said that under the Act of 1831 a Coalmaster was entitled to say to an applicant for employment, "You shall not be employed unless you agree to pay for the colliery doctor." The question was - did section six of the new Act affect that position.

The Fiscal - That, my Lord, seems to be the whole point.

Mr Shaw - If the new Act excludes a contract of this kind, what, I ask, is the meaning of section nine, which provides for an audit for deductions for medical attendance?

The Sheriff - If you isolated section six, probably it would exclude such a contract.

Mr Shaw - Just in the same way as you isolated section two and nine from the Act of 1831. It was a remarkable thing that about sixty years had passed since this Act came into operation, and there never had been such an indictment brought until now. If those two Acts were to be construed together as one Act, what were they to make of section twenty-three of the 1831 Act which said: - "Be it further enacted and declared, that nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed as to extend to prevent any employer of any artificer, or agent of any such employer, from supplying or contracting to supply to any such artificer any medicine or medical attendance," &c.

The Fiscal - Provided there is a written contract.

Mr Shaw - But there is nothing about a written contract here. We are not at all concerned how the bargain is made. It could never be an indictable offence that a man had failed to put a bargain in writing.

The Sheriff - Could the view not be taken that section twenty-three of the 1831 Act exempts certain contracts, providing they are in writing?

Mr Shaw - I don't think so, my lord.

The Sheriff said that it might be suggested that it would still be lawful for a company to say, "We have a doctor, and if you choose to avail yourself of his services we will take so much out of your wages." He did not know if such a view was workable, but it would get over the objection that the way in which the prosecution construed section six of the Act of 1887 left no meaning in section twenty-three of the Act of 1831.

Mr Shaw said that it rather occurred to him in this way that either it was a bargain or it was not a bargain. They might call it a condition if they liked. If it was a condition not imposed, it was not a bargain. The two terms must have the same meaning ultimately.

The Sheriff said he could understand that under certain circumstances wages could be deducted for employment of the doctor and yet not be made a condition of employment. A man might have entered the employment, and the master and man might come together and the master say, "It would be convenient, instead of you paying the doctor direct, the payment should be made through me." That would be a bargain that there should be a deduction from wages, but it would not be imposing as a condition of employment.

Mr Shaw said he was afraid the result would be the same, because if the man refused to comply with this suggestion his employment might not be continued past the next pay.

The Sheriff said that although they could not go into the facts at this stage it was notorious that the men at Lochgelly did not wish the doctor.

Mr Shaw having referred to an English case in which the colliery owners were sued by a miner for payment of deductions which had not been handed over to the doctor, said that in the present instance there was not a sixpence of profit made by the company. He proceeded to quote the case of *Lamb v the Great Northern Railway Company*, which was decided by the Queen's Bench Division this year. In that case Mr Justice Grantham said: - "Then comes section six, and although our attention has not been directed to this point, it is easy to see why it was passed. It was to supplement section two of the old Act, from which it is very different; the former section refers to wage 'due or to become due', while section six to the Act of 1887 refers to wages 'paid,' and prohibits the master from imposing a condition as to the mode of their expenditure; this is clear from the rest of the section. The reason for the section was not that the legislature wished in it to interfere with what was done about

wages due, but that they wished to prevent the employer from coercing the labourer after he had got the money into his hands. In my opinion section twenty-three of the Act of William IV. overrides everything in this Act." Continuing Mr Shaw said that all the arguments he had submitted seemed to be enforced by the case of Lamb.

The Sheriff - Can you suggest any reason why th

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

NOVEMBER 19, 1892

THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF HILL OF BEATH.

If there are some Rip Van Winkles in the Western District of Fifeshire who have been asleep during the last half century, and are anxious to have an idea of the great progress which has been made in mining since 1840, they could not do better than make a tour round this Fife Coal Company's works at Hill of Beath. The late Mr Ord Adams began operating on a very extensive scale at Hill of Beath upwards of 30 years ago. The great Engine Pit he sank on the eastern slope of the Hill of Beath was a big venture compared with many of the small pits and day-mines opened up in many of the districts in Fife. In 1887 Mr David Adams, fully alive to the tendencies of the age, inaugurated the work of extending the colliery on a huge scale by contracting for sinking on the borders of the Hill of Beath and Dalbeath grounds, and the pit put down is undoubtedly the largest pit in Scotland. In 1889 the work passed into the hands of the Fife Coal Company, and the management of this great concern have taken care to complete the fittings of the Dalbeath pit on a scale which makes the works a wonder to the miner who comes from the pits where modern appliances are at a discount, and extensive mineral development is not aimed at. Instead of following the old custom of sinking two shafts, the one a short distance from the other, a single shaft 26 feet by 10 feet has been put down to the coal seams. The shaft is divided into two by a strong wooden partition. In the northern division the coals are wound from the Dunfermline seam, a distance of 163 fathoms, by a pair of double-decked cages, each carrying four hutches; while in the southern division the coals are raised from the Lochgelly splint by ordinary double cages, 115 fathoms. A pair of handsome coupled engines are set aside for each division. The engines have 24 inch and 28 inch cylinders and 12 feet and 14 feet drums, and with scarcely a break during the eight hours the pits are in operation. With lightning speed the six full hutches of coals are brought to the surface, where all is bustle and activity. The old turning trams and screens would be of but little use for an output of coal such as that which is being vomited out of the Dalbeath pit, and on the huge platform at the mouths of the shafts Messrs Kesson & Campbell's, Hamilton shaking screens and picking bands have been erected. There are six jagger machines and eight picking bands in operation, and turn how one will all is bustle. The household coals and steam chews are carried slowly along shoots, where stones and all kinds of foreign material are rejected, while the smaller pieces of coal are carried through various machines. From the smaller coals are produced the classes of coals known as chirls, treble and double nuts, beans, peas, and dross. The coals are brought into the bottom of the pit by haulage engines, and when it is stated that the workings are all "dook" workings - that is to say that the seams are all lying at a much lower level than the pit bottom - those who know the difficulties which have to be faced will be inclined to assume that a daily output of 800 tons, which will be increased to 1000 ere long, is a wonderful achievement. The workings are kept free of water by a ponderous pumping engine. The high pressure cylinder of the huge pump is 57 inches while the low pressure one is 84 inches. The

pumps are 24 inches in diameter, and between 2 and 3 tons of water per minute are raised. The winding and pumping engines are the very best of workmanship, and supply practical evidence of the quality of the work turned out by the makers, Messrs Grant, Ritchie & Co., Kilmarnock. All the tackling for the pumping gear is of the most substantial material, and the haulage apparatus, by which the coals are brought up the "dook" workings to the bottom of the shafts, is constructed on the most approved principles. The old system of lighting by coal fire-lamps or naphtha is abandoned, and at morning and night the works are lit up by the electric light. Judged from any department, the pit is a model one, and certainly impresses the visitor with the feeling that if further progress in mining is to be made, it will require to be of a very advanced type. The whole works are a credit to the managing partner of the company, Mr Carlow, and Mr Rowan, the manager. It is under Mr Rowan's immediate supervision the great concern is carried on. Operations at the brickwork, which is contiguous to the colliery, have also been extended in recent years, and while the machinery for turning out the work has been greatly improved, the number of hands have been considerably added to - the result being that the output of the finished article is very much increased.

While extending the works in every direction, the management have not lost sight of the fact that extra housing accommodation would be required for workmen, and the little hamlet of Hill of Beath has in four years developed into a village of considerable dimensions. Old Hill of Beath consisted of some 40 one and two-roomed houses, while now housing accommodation is provided for no fewer than 205 families. The new houses are a great improvement on the old order of things. Some 20 or 30 years ago a number of the Fife mining villages were largely composed of houses of one room, and the hovels quite met the demands. Along the whole line the one-roomed cribs are being abandoned, however, and new Hill of Beath is a fair sample of what must be the mining village of the future. The houses are airy and well lighted, and recognising the necessity for making provision for large families, three apartments are provided in a good many of the houses. Drainage has had a good deal of attention, and all that is wanted to make the drainage perfect is an improved system of carrying the sewage after it has reached a point of considerable distance from the village. Happily, the County Council have taken up the question, and it has been proposed that the perfection of the Hill of Beath system should be attempted in conjunction with the Crossgates drainage works. A tidy house has been built for the manager, Mr Rowan, and a school is being erected on a site close to the village. The history of the school is very easily told. The population has suddenly leapt from 250 to upwards of 1000, and the village being situated a mile from Crossgates or Cowdenbeath, Mr Carlow thought that an infant school ought to be opened. One of the houses was formed into a school of one room, and a female teacher appointed at the company's expense. The demand for infant accommodation more than met anticipation, and two houses had to be made into one room. The Beath School Board recognised the necessity for educational facilities in the village some time ago, and resolved to take over the infant school and to proceed forthwith to erect a new school at the south end of the village. The building, which is now in course of completion, consists of two rooms, lofty and spacious, well lighted from sides by large three-light windows. The building will accommodate 129 senior and 66 junior scholars. The infant's galleries and desks and benches have received the careful consideration of the Board and the architects.

Ample means of ventilation are provided at the windows, and Boyle's inlet ventilators on the walls, with extracting ventilators on roofs, have been adopted. The heating is by open fire-places, with hot air flues 6 feet from the floor. Separate entrances, lavatories, and cloak rooms for boys and girls, and convenient teachers rooms, are provided. Boys and girls Latrines are fitted up to the rear, and ample playground is provided. An acre of ground has been taken off with a view of extension, it being intended that the present building should form part of a larger school. The building and grounds are in a forward state, and expect to be ready for opening early next year. Mr John Houston, Dunfermline, is the architect for the school, and, indeed, was the architect for all the houses built in the village in recent years.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1892

THE LABOUR COMMISSION.

The Coalowners' Secretary's Evidence.

At the sitting on Friday of last week of the Royal Commission on Labour in the Commissioner's Room at Westminster Hall, evidence was given on behalf of the Fife and Clackmannan Coalowner's Association. The Commissioners present were - Mr David Dale, Chairman of the Iron and Coal Section of the Commission; Mr Burt, M.P.; Mr Mawdsley; Sir E. Harland, M.P.; Mr W. Abraham, M.P.; Mr Trow, Mr Austin, Mr Tait, and Mr Hewlett.

Mr J. Connel, examined by the CHAIRMAN, said - I am hon. secretary of the Fife and Clackmannan Coalowners' Association, and also managing director of the Lochgelly Iron and Coal Company. There are 22 members, holding 40 separate collieries having an annual output of 3,500,000 tons.

What proportion of the coalowners are in your association? - They are all in it except two or three small collieries representing not more than 400 or 500 men. The hours are eight and a half from bank to bank. This has been in operation for 22 years, and includes all classes of underground men.

But of course that does not represent the number of hours at the face? - No. These do not exceed seven and a half. The difference would be represented by half an hour for meal times, and half an hour going down the shaft and to the working places.

You desire to make some observations on the expectations under which the permanent working hours were reduced? - The Fife and Clackmannan coalowners would have resisted, but it was fully expected that the eight hour movement would be more general. They expected that Lanarkshire and Ayrshire would have followed, but that had not been so. Our men begun an agitation for the eight hour movement, and it gradually crept on, and it was because of what I have mentioned that we acquiesced in the arrangement; but in order to do that we had to extend very largely our machinery to overcome the shorter hours. We also had to get a large number of railway lines to do the work in a short time. That involved a large expenditure on the part of the collieries which would have not been gone into unless we had thought it was going to be general.

The Chairman - It is going a long way back, but what were the hours before the change was made?

Witness - Practically nine or ten hours - from five or six in the morning to four or five in the afternoon. Now they go down at six in the morning and are up as soon as

possible after two o'clock.

The Result of the Eight Hours System.

Do you find that the output is reduced? - For a time it was; but since that time changes have been made and the haulage improved, and in that way we have been able to overcome the reduction of hours. Then they have got boring machines into the mines, which enables the men to get coal a great deal quicker from the face. That accounts in a great measure for the output being about what it was.

Have you had any agitation among the men for a further shortening of hours? - No; we have had no agitation. We have shown the men from time to time the hardship we suffer in comparison to other districts by competing in the same markets with those who work additional time.

If there was a universal eight hour, that would mitigate competition of other districts? - Yes, it would bring us more on a level; we are handicapped just now.

Do you desire to offer any evidence of the general effect upon the trade of the country? - The effect would undoubtedly be that the cost of raising coal would be increased. It would certainly affect the profits of the coalowner if he was not to raise his coal to a certain price which he must endeavour to get from the purchasers. But he could not regulate the prices, which must be regulated according to the demand for the article.

Conditions of Employment.

You desire to say something as to the regulations and conditions of employment: - We have regulations and conditions of employment that apply to all the collieries of our association. Mr Weir, as representing the miners, stated to you that these pressed unjustly on them, and that in respect of rule 3, requiring fourteen days notice to be given by either employers or workmen before a contract could be terminated, he suggested that only one days notice should be required. The coalowners desire to represent that it is impossible to have steady work on a days notice, and, whereas with us the greater part of the output goes to the shipping ports, and a large shipping trade conducted, any sudden interruption to work is serious. The coal of Clackmannan is shipped to the Baltic, and it would be a serious matter for us if work was suspended at a days notice when large engagements have been made for shipping. Experience has proved that fourteen days notice, which is common in many districts in England, is good both for the men and the employers. It often prevents rupture on a large scale by allowing time for tempers to cool, and for consideration of any question in dispute. Mr Weir represented to you that men are occasionally required to work longer in a deficient place at a lower rate than they would if they could free themselves on a days notice. The principle, however, applies both ways, as, if the place improves, the employers cannot reduce the rate before fourteen days notice. In the North of England, where places are allotted, the men must work for months at the agreed on rate whether the places are good or bad. We have not had many disputes and those that have arisen have been settled within the fourteen days, whereas if there had only

been a days notice there would have been frequent strikes, in consequence of the short time and the want of opportunity for dealing between the parties.

Fourteen Days Notice.

Is there any general desire on the part of the main body of the men to abridge that notice? - They have made no representation on the subject. I believe our best men are rather in favour of the notice. The men further say that if the work becomes difficult they can get no redress until fourteen days, but, on the other hand, if the work improves, we do not reduce the wages, so that it works both ways, and the fourteen days enables us to work amicably. The rule goes on to show that the notice shall be given at the office in office hours. Mr Weir has contended that as the employer could post a general notice to close a pit at the end of fourteen days, the men could equally be at liberty to give fourteen days general notice. We believe that would have conduced to strikes, and it was better that each man should act for himself. Objection was also taken by Mr Weir as to the system of "pay lines" at our collieries. The present system is that the pay lines, on which are stated the particulars of each mans pay, are issued on the day previous to the pay, and if any omissions or error has been made in the account of wages provision is made under the rules that on the following day after the pay corrections will be made. With so many men being paid together it would be impossible to give effect to corrections at the pay table, but it is well understood - and has been for at least 30 years, that notwithstanding the discharged pay-line, which is handed in in return for the amount named on the pay line, there is no bar whatever to the men obtaining payment of any item omitted on the day after the pay, and not to my knowledge has a case ever occurred where such payment was not made. There must be some system of receipt in the payment of so many men at one time, and this presently acted on has not been found disadvantageous to the workmen. Manifestly allowing the qualification asked by Mr Weir of "payments to account" would lead to great confusion and trouble. Any man who chose might qualify their receipts, and leave accounts open indefinitely. As stated, the coalowners provide in their rules that, although the receipts are given in full on the pay day, an error will be put right, and surely that is sufficient.

Occupancy of Houses.

It was represented to you by Mr Weir that it was a hardship under the colliery rules that they were required to quit the occupancy of the houses when their engagements had expired. It is necessary to be explained that many of the collieries are situated in districts remote from large towns, and the coalowners are obliged to build houses for the accommodation of their own workpeople in the same way as they have to erect engines and machinery to win the coal. If, therefore, the workmen whose notices have expired continue in occupation of the houses, it follows that the operations of the colliery are hereby restricted, as there are not houses for the accommodation of other men who come to take the place of those who have quitted the service. When men give in their notice to leave presumably they have found employment elsewhere, and must look out for accommodation. The houses are not built by the coalowners for any other purpose than that of developing his own colliery, and if workpeople are to be

allowed to occupy them while working at another place or wilfully going idle, it is unreasonable to expect that the coalowner should submit to that. If houses were obtainable otherwise, the coalowners would not expend their capital building them.

The Chairman - Can the fourteen days notice be given on any day?

Witness - It can. The men are generally in the union. Our relations with them are quite cordial. Our only difference has been when representatives of the men misrepresented to them what took place at a conference. The masters then represented that they could no longer act through the chairman and secretary. A meeting of the men dismissed the chairman and secretary, and amicable relations have since been maintained. The coalmasters were at liberty to act individually except on questions affecting the whole Association. The men were at a disadvantage because they had not an opportunity of ascertaining authorised prices, and on that ground it would have been better to have had

A Sliding Scale.

The men had, however, rejected that, and now they refused even to discuss it; therefore there was no sliding scale at all in operation. The association did not notice local disputes. There had been one great strike in 1887, when all the pits were idle for seventeen weeks. The masters gave fourteen days notice to close them. Since then there had only been local strikes.

The Chairman - The reduction now sought was indicated by fourteen days?

Witness - Yes; we gave notice that wages would be reduced 15 per cent. The miners refused. The Executive met, and sent in a recommendation that 7½ should be accepted, and this was agreed to except by one colliery which was on strike. On that account, on the first pay 15 per cent was exacted with the intimation that when the Dysart men went in the 7½ would be returned. The men would not go in. Owners had since said that as Mr Weir had done his utmost to get the men back they would return the 7½ per cent. The colliery that would not go in had been cut off from the union. We kept off the 15 per cent until all that could be done had been done. The men did not believe the 15 would be withdrawn, but practically those notices have been acted upon.

The Chairman - There is no question arising of disfavour shown to unionists?

Witness - No. When the question arose we said - "No, we will say nothing to one man or another," There was a feeling for a time between union men and non-union men, but there has been no inconvenience whatever to the owners from that cause.

Is there a benefit fund? - No. The men did not think it necessary, as they are connected with the Foresters and other bodies.

By Mr Burt - We have occasionally communicated with the Clackmannan Association, and Mr Weir has generally asked a Clackmannan man to join in a

conference, and any agreement come to is binding on them. Our trade is principally steam coal to the Baltic, and our competitors are chiefly Lanark and the North of England.

Has the produce of coal per coal-getter increased or diminished with the hours? - It is much the same.

As a matter of equity they would be entitled to any increase of produce from the use of the machines? - Yes; but we suffer also from the use

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1893.

MINERS' HOLIDAYS IN OLDEN TIMES.

A correspondent writing in the 'Peoples Journal' says – In times like these, when miners all over Scotland are allowed so much laxity in having holidays, it may not be out of place to recall how their forefathers stood in regard to holidays 200 or 300 years ago. Notwithstanding that in 1592 they were exempted from taxes and civil service in times of peace and war, and them with their families taken under a special Royal favour, in 1641, it was considered necessary by the Parliament of pass an Act ordering the miners to work six days a week, owing to their passing a deal of their working week in debauchery, and causing

Inconvenience to Their Masters.

The text of the Act is interesting and reads: - *“And because the saidis coalhewers and salters and other workemene at Pasch, Yule, Whitsonday, and certane other tymes in the yeer, which tymes they imploy in drinking and deboishrie, to the great offence of God and the prejudice of their maisters; it is therefore statute and ordeaned that the saidis coalhewers and salters and otheres workemene of coalhenehes in this Kingdome work all the sex dayes of the weke, under the paines following – That is to say, that everie coalhewer or salter who lyes ywdle shall pay twenty (20) shillings for everie day by and at tour the prejudice sustiened by their maister, and other punishment of their bodies.”* Later on it appears that flittings and other such occasions were taken advantage of by miners for

A Blow Out,

and in consequence a further Act was passed in 1647 ordaining that the flitting and enterings of colliers should take place on 1st December annually, and further, that no superstitious observance of Yule should take place, under penalties. An Act of Parliament passed in 1661 allowed holidays for miners at Christmas. It would be interesting to know, in view of these prohibitory measures, what would be the cost of those regaling at flittings, &c., as wages at that time did not show a big margin for frivolity. In 1570, 4d a day was about the average rate, but houses were provided and other commodities given free. At the present time we may congratulate ourselves on our freedom to take an idle day when the flesh is weak without pains or penalties being imposed.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1893.

MILESMARK AND PARKNEUK BEHIND THE AGES.

The mining hamlets of Milesmark and Parkneuk are sadly behind the ages. The houses are not a patch on what miners now live in in the modern mining villages; the sanitary arrangements are bad, and the roads running through the villages are in a disgraceful state. The inhabitants of the two villages hailed advent of the County Council with glee, and fully anticipated that the new Local Government body would inaugurate its reign by insisting on a big scheme of reform at Milesmark and Parkneuk. The houses and roads of the district are private property, however, and the County Council have no power to improve private property by the appropriation of public funds. They have therefore not spent any money on any drainage scheme at Milesmark or Parkneuk, but they have again and again called upon the lessees of the houses, Messrs Nimmo & Son, of Rosebank Colliery, to improve the sanitary arrangements. According to the Sanitary Inspector, the Messrs Nimmo have been very dilatory in the adoption of a scheme of sanitary reform. Some little improvement was made some time ago; but it transpires that the erections have been so much neglected that they have become a nuisance, and have only aggravated the evils from which the people suffered before anything was attempted. The villagers have happily become weary of their intolerable surroundings, and on Tuesday they petitioned the Dunfermline District Committee of the County Council on the subject. Mr Henry Beveridge, of Pitreavie, the County Council representative of the district, with whom the petition was originally lodged, has visited the hamlets, and he finds the roads the worst he has ever seen, while many of the houses are rendered uncomfortable by rotten doors and windows, which cannot be wind and watertight because of the woodwork being decayed. The best improvement scheme which could be carried out at Parkneuk and Milesmark would be a scheme by which many of the houses would be improved off the face of the earth. This is perhaps too radical a cure for the evils from which the people suffer, however, and the County Council will have to content itself with issuing an order commanding the parties responsible to carry out an effective system of drainage in the villages and a road improvement scheme. Meantime the Messrs Nimmo admit that they are responsible for the sanitary arrangements of the village; but they deny liability for the roads. The County Council have accordingly placed the matter in the hands of the Prosecution Committee. The Committee are to take up the sanitary matters without delay, and are afterwards to consider the question as to who is responsible for the roads. We hope that the Prosecution Committee will be able to place an exhaustive report in the hands of the General Committee at no distant date. Things are in such a condition that delay cannot be tolerated another winter. The days have gone by when men, women and children can be allowed to wade to the knees in mud and sewage in the village streets. Men who pay a fair rental for their houses – hovels as they may be – have a right to tolerably sweet surroundings, and if the circumstances do not admit of a big improvement at Milesmark and Parkneuk a ten inch nail should be knocked into every door and the houses abandoned.

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APRIL 29, 1893

TWO WEST FIFE MINING VILLAGES.

CROSSGATES.

The Dunfermline Parish School Board need not be afraid to make a substantial addition to the Crossgates School. Despite the dull trade which is being experienced in connection with the mining industry, the village shows the most apparent signs of prosperity. Numerous houses are being built, and judging from the demand which is being made for housing accommodation, we fully anticipate that building operations will not stop with the blocks of houses which have recently been contracted for. The air of prosperity which pervades the village will doubtless give the County Council greater heart to press forward the drainage and water schemes. The schemes cannot be carried out a moment too soon. The water running through the bridge burn has been very much reduced in recent years, and during the summer months the sewage of the village has been run into what was practically a dry ditch. The Cullalo water supply has been quite inadequate for the wants of the population for some summers, and what has added to the dilemma is the fact that the quality has been as bad as could be. Some of the older houses in the village are not particularly inviting; but the more modern houses and the new blocks show signs of progress. At the railway station a good many improvements have been carried out by the Railway Company. A bridge has been thrown over the railway, and new booking offices built. The waiting room accommodation has also been greatly improved. If the villagers want to complete the scheme of sanitary reform which has been begun in the village by the County Council, they would require to erect a good many washing houses and other conveniences in every street and row. Some of the feuars of Crossgates and Springhill could not do better than take a peep at what is being done in the prettily situated village of

FORDELL

Even in the good old days Fordell was looked upon as a model mining village. The late Mr Mercer Henderson believed in giving his workmen tidy and comfortable houses, and the dwellings he erected on the sunny slopes a little to the south of Mossgreen church as far back as 1850 compare favourably with the houses erected in the modern mining village. What adds considerably to the charm of the village is the fact that almost every householder can boast of a plot of ground, and since newer Fordell was built, the Lords and Ladies of the manor have taken care to cultivate a healthy rivalry in flower culture. The late Mr Henderson did much to create a love for flowers, and under the Hon. Mrs. Mercer Henderson, the love has increased rather

than diminished. The village has long had the advantage of a good water supply and a fairly effective system of drainage, and to-day - and this is a feature we commend to the notice of some feuars in Crossgates - Mr Morton, the manager of the colliery, is having numerous washing and outhouses erected throughout the village. The sites chosen for the washing-houses are extremely convenient, and yet they do not obtrude to such an extent as to mar the good effect produced by tidy houses and neatly kept gardens. One of the most interesting institutions in the village is the Reading Rooms, established by Mrs. Mercer Henderson. The rooms, the heating, and the lighting costs the miners nothing. An interesting little library forms an attractive adjunct, and in one of the rooms there is a billiard table which many a crack would be delighted to play upon. A little endowment fund for books is being placed in the bank to the credit of the institution - and for this fund the readers are indebted to the forethought of the patroness. We hope ere long to see similar institutions established in every mining village in West Fife. The day school - the venerable Mr Currie still teaches with great acceptance - is a really handsome structure, and we are pleased to notice that the management have placed it on a site where there is ample room for extension. That extensions will be required must be evident to those who have the slightest idea of the enormous extent of minerals which lie solid in the district. Mr W.M. Miller, M.E., Edinburgh, in giving evidence in connection with the Caledonian Railway Bill in 1891, estimated that there were about 12,000,000 tons of coal to work in the Fordell district. Through skilful work Mr Morton, the capable manager, has maintained a steady output in the old pits for years; but as the working extend from the bottom of the old shafts, attention will doubtless be directed towards the solid seams of the finest household and steam coals which lie to the north east of some of the present pits. In addition to the solid seams there are also numerous broad acres of coal which were abandoned because of flooding. We hope that the time will come when the water will be pumped out of the Halbeath and Fordell pits, and the coals which to-day lie in water left high and dry. Development of the untouchable coalfields and the resumption of operations in the old all point to prosperous times at Fordell, and impress one with the idea that a time may come when the Hon. Mrs. Mercer Henderson and the managers of the colliery have to face a considerable addition to the house accommodation in the district.

In not a few mining villages in West Fife, many of the provident miners are erecting houses for themselves. The successive owners of Fordell Colliery have ever happily been able to boast of a provident class of men who do not believe in flying about the country. If we are right in assuming that increased house accommodation may be required some day, how would it do to give old residents a greater interest in the place by staking off a field in the district as feus for miners houses. We commend the idea to the kindly Mrs. Mercer Henderson and the general manager of her collieries.

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KELTY

A History of the Free Church

The Free Church congregation held their annual social meeting in the church last week. After tea, the chairman, the Rev. Mr Stephen, expressed satisfaction in being able once again to preside over the meeting, and pointed out that during this year two novelties had occurred in his experience - the jubilee of the church, and his now being an inhabitant of Kelty. The endeavour to obtain a manse in Kelty had been attempted for fifty years, and having been accomplished at this particular time, could be looked upon as a favourable omen. The Rubicon, as it were, had been crossed. On his own behalf and those around him, he declared their belief in the antiquity of the Free Church, in her doctrines, in her spiritual advances, and her continuance in carrying out the gospel war. In Kelty they were especially a Home Mission Church, and as their countrymen of old rallied round King Bruce, they, having a greater King, looked upon themselves as Christian soldiers. Mr J. Gibb read a brief history of this church, which is built on a site granted by one Mr Hutchison on condition that the church pay the whole feu duty, though only using half the area. The payment has now amounted to £80 - a heavy burden on a small congregation. Rev. Mr Duncan was the first minister, continuing, however, but a short time in charge, having been translated to Peebles at the end of 1843 or the beginning of 1844. Rev. Mr Cullen succeeded, and held the office for 30 years, having at the commencement of his ministry 54 members and 15 adherents. The contributions to the Sustenance Fund were so small, however, that the Church leaders proposed at different times to reduce its standing from a ministerial charge to a preaching station, but through some exceptional circumstances it was continued without change till 1873. Up to 1876 Rev. Mr Tate acted as missionary, but on Mr Stephenson's appointment in that year, its old position as a full ministerial charge was recognised. The membership of 79 at this period had increased to 195 with 50 adherents; the contributions to the Sustenance Fund reaches £166. Alterations have been made on the building since its erection. The school attached to it has become part of it itself, thereby giving 100 extra sittings, a bell and railing have been erected, and a manse has been successfully completed. Rev. Andrew Melville, D.D., Edinburgh, who supported the chairman, congratulated the congregation on its prosperity, and went on to point out why they should belong to a Christian Association, and especially a Free Church. He strongly advocated an extension of that spirit of increasing interest, not only in the advancement of their own particular district, but of all localities connected with their own church. Though he could not think, as was the practice of the Jewish Jubilee year, of returning to a state of "as you were" fifty years ago, yet he would desire to see exemplified the earnestness, the energy, and perseverance of their forefathers. They may now seem cold-blooded, but the reports submitted to-night established the fact that life and energy still exist among

them. From the Treasurer's report a balance of £3 2s 4d stands to the credit of the church, and it was announced that after disbursing £789 17s from the Manse Fund of £848 8s enough was left to meet the remaining account, and that the manse would clear the debt. The Sabbath School, Bible Class, and other schemes continue to make substantial progress. A musical programme was overtaken, and the main reflects the greatest credit on Mr John Hughes, the conductor, and the singers, who were all very favourably received. The tea was promptly served by an efficient band of stewardesses. During the evening Mr James Stephen, jun., Edinburgh, performed his part as organist with much acceptance.

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FEBRUARY 11, 1893

THE SANITARY CONDITION OF WEST FIFE VILLAGES.

The annual report by Mr John McLennan, sanitary inspector of the Dunfermline District, to the Dunfermline District Committee of the Fife County Council, for the year ending 31st December 1892, has been printed, and was presented to a meeting of the District Committee on Tuesday. We make the following quotation from the report: -

In terms of Section 52 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1889 and of the regulations approved by the Board of Supervision, I now beg to submit the following report: -

I - GENERAL SANITARY STATE OF THE DISTRICT.

Aberdour.

This village, well known as a summer resort for visitors, is one of the cleanest kept places in the county. With the exception of one case of Scarlatina imported from Burntisland, the village shows a clean bill of health for the last twelve months. Wester Aberdour drainage is pretty old and the sewers laid without ventilation of any kind so far as I can see. Unfortunately, the plan of these works have gone amissing, and the lines will be difficult to trace as some of the sewers run below dwelling-houses. It will, however, be necessary to face the difficulty this spring in order to be able to fight successfully any invasion of cholera or other infectious diseases.

St David's, Inverkeithing.

This small village belongs to the proprietors of the Fordell Estate and boasts of an excellent harbour for the export of coals. The water supply comes from Lord Moray's grounds, and there is always plenty of it. I question, however, if the quality is very good; and I am sure that the introduction of Glensherup water from the Dunfermline Corporation would be a great boon to the inhabitants both in regard to health, convenience, and for the purpose of flushing the drainage system in so far as such exists. Typhoid fever broke out in the village in 1891 and in May last it broke out again in the house of Alex. McIntyre, labourer, when his wife and two children were all ill at one time. The drainage was found to be very defective, and the pipes were all taken up, relaid at a greater depth and properly trapped. The same family suffered from the disease in 1890, and this case shows how typhoid fever will linger about a place where the drainage is bad.

Hillend, Inverkeithing

This village is without drainage or water supply. The village wells have been condemned as being very bad, but a good number of the householders have a supply by meter from off the Aberdour main, and I have no doubt that a good many villagers get a supply from those who have meters. The village has been exceptionally free from infectious diseases during the year, there having been only one case of enteric fever notified. I have no hesitation, however, in saying that a supply of pure water should be introduced to the place, and also that one or two main sewers ought to be made for carrying away liquid refuse from the houses. Some of the houses are very insanitary, especially at the east end, and so damp as to be nearly unfit for human habitation.

North Queensferry - Jamestown and Cruickness.

North Queensferry has its water supply from Dunfermline Corporation, and a considerable quantity of water is used in the special district. The valuation of the Forth Bridge and railway within the district has so increased the rateable value, that no assessment for water was leviable this year from the ratepayers, and in consequence of this a thorough system of drainage was found to be practicable without placing a large burden on the rates. As already indicated, a drainage district has been formed and the works will soon be commenced. The village is cleaned every morning by George Donaldson for the District Committee, and this has been attended to regularly and carefully, and, whether owing to this or not, the village has had, with the exception of scarlet fever in one family, a clean bill of health for the year. At Cruickness one case of erysipelas was reported, and the place is healthy. Jamestown again had two cases of scarlet fever. This is a small hamlet of labourers' dwelling houses, pretty damp, but rather cleanly kept. The water is got from a well in the vicinity. The houses have no rhones or down conductors for rain-water, and I attribute the cause of dampness to this.

Charlestown and Limekilns.

At Limekilns a barrel on wheels has now been provided for flushing purposes; it contains from 60 to 70 gallons or thereby, and after being filled with water mixed with disinfectants, the contents are discharged by means of a 4 inch cock and hoses into the heads of the drains at the ventilator openings. Charlestown is kept clean at the expense of the Earl of Elgin, but considerable quantities of refuse are by some of the inhabitants allowed to accumulate in proximity to the houses. A bad outbreak of diphtheria occurred in these villages last summer, and the want of a hospital for the treatment of infectious diseases was here felt, as isolation of those attacked in a hospital would, no doubt, have circumscribed the outbreak. There has been no case reported since the first day of December last, and I am inclined to think that the disease has been beaten. The number of cases reported was thirty in all. Scarlet fever was also prevalent to a considerable extent in these villages, there being nine cases notified. The Limekilns Public School was thoroughly washed, cleaned and disinfected before the classes were resumed after a vacation of a few weeks during the

diphtheria outbreak. The water supply is attended to by William Black, Charlestown, who also acts as sub-sanitary inspector, and attends to the cleaning of Limekilns. His whole time is at the command of the Committee. During the time of the precautions against cholera, Black had to see that the vessels from the infected ports had all the waters in their casks discharged before entering port and well cleaned out, and that the clothes of the crew were thoroughly boiled and fumigated after the vessel had been inspected by the Medical Officer of Health, and the sanitary inspector. A large number of vessels were so inspected off Charlestown, and Black's duties were carefully performed. I think that the accumulation of refuse in the forms of ashes, vegetable and other matters should be removed without delay, and the stances disinfected with chloride of lime or some other substance.

Crossford.

This village has no water supply save that what is got from shallow wells, and it has no drainage system with the exception of one or two drains placed for road surface water, and used indiscriminately by the feuars for sewerage purposes. Many of the houses are without rhones or drains, but, notwithstanding all these drawbacks, the place has been exceptionally free from disease, there being only one case notified during the year, that of John Ritchie, who suffered from enteric fever. I understand, however, that upon the last visitation of cholera in this district, Crossford was scourged heavily, and I can well believe it from the fact that in consequence of the want of a sewerage system, the passages of any patient must find their way to the water supply. I have no hesitation therefore, in saying that the wants of this village, both as regards water and drainage, should be gone into without delay.

Cairneyhill.

The water supply is from shallow wells, and cannot from the nature of the surroundings be good. There is no drainage in the village. The inhabitants as a rule are particularly healthy. There were notified during the year 3 cases of scarlet fever, and 1 of enteric fever. The cleanliness of the village is sharply looked after the sub-sanitary inspector, John Jack, from Saline, visiting it every week. I would, however, urge the introduction of good water to the place.

Torryburn and Newmill.

These places are still without a good supply of pure water, and nothing has been done in the shape of sewerage. The more flagrant nuisances have been restrained by the use of notice boards, and the many inspections by the Medical Officer, myself, and the sub-sanitary inspector, John Jack. The gutters of the villages are attended to twice a week by James Ritchie, the road surfaceman. Several of the wells were shut up by order of the Committee, but little, if any, attention is being paid to this now, boardings being torn down and pumps got agoing again. There was only one case, however, of scarlet fever during the year. I must still urge the necessity of the introduction of a supply of pure water to these villages, as well as a regular overhaul of the drainage system of the place.

Lowvalleyfield.

The most of the drainage runs direct into the shore of the Forth. There is no water supply except what is got from wells. The people seem to be anxious for the introduction of Glensherup water, and I think that the proprietor of Lowvalleyfield Estate has power to obtain water for that purpose whenever he thinks fit. The place is eminently free from disease, no case having as yet been notified from it.

Comrie Village

This hamlet is kept in a fairly clean state. The proprietors of Inzievar have placed two pillar wells on their Comrie Castle supply for the use of the villagers on payment of a certain sum per annum. The inhabitants, with one or two exceptions, have taken advantage of this. I think that steps should ought to be taken to close the old shallow wells, and so to compel all the inhabitants to use Dunfermline water. There is no drainage in the place, although the houses are built upon a natural outfall, John Jack inspects the village every week, and the ashpits and privies are kept clean. No case was notified last year.

Oakley Village.

The most of the houses in this village have been leased to the Fifeshire Main Collieries Coy., and a general overhaul and repair has been made on these. Ample accommodation has been provided in the form of ashpits and privies, the surroundings very much improved and channels laid for liquid refuse and surface and roof water, &c. Glensherup water is in use, and there has been no case of Infectious disease notified during last year. John Jack inspects the village every week.

Carnock and Gowkhall Villages.

These villages are wholly dependent on shallow wells for their water supply, and there is virtually no drainage in either village. The water must, therefore, be strongly contaminated with filth and other matter. The two principal wells at Carnock lie close to the edge of the burn, and when a spate occurs, the water overflows into the wells, and renders them useless for drinking purposes. Moreover, the sewage from Luscar House is discharged into this burn, and the filth in this time of spate lodges in these wells, and afterwards renders the water unfit for any purpose. A water district for the two villages is being formed, and negotiations are going on with the proprietor of Luscar to obtain connection with his 3 inch main from off the Glensherup supply, in order to lay pipes for the use of the villages. If these succeed, we may confidently look forward to Carnock and Gowkhall having a supply of pure water by gravitation this summer. The sanitary condition of these villages is very much improved, ashpits, privies, and drains being well attended to, everything being inspected regularly once a week by John Jack, Saline. The effect of this may be seen in the absence of any disease during the year, as Gowkhall was always looked upon as a fertile spot for typhoid fever.

Saline Village.

This village shows on the surface to be one of the nicest and cleanest kept places of the West of Fife, with a supply of fine pure water, brought by gravitation from Balgonar Hill. John Jack is sub-sanitary inspector here, and cleans the streets of the village, and acts as water officer besides. Notwithstanding all this, there is no regular drainage system in the place, and the householders, in a great many cases, take advantage of the road drains to discharge their liquid refuse and other matter into, and no security against an outbreak of any epidemic is provided for by proper trapping or ventilation of these side drains. There have been only two cases of infectious disease notified in the village during the year, and these two were from erysipelas. One case of scarlet fever was notified from Dunyask, and one case of diphtheria from Rhnd.

Kincardine-on-Forth.

This town is formed into a Drainage District and Water Supply District, the boundaries of each being the same. The water supply is taken by gravitation from filters and clear water tanks within the policies of Tulliallan, and there is always a good supply. The drainage system is not working quite satisfactorily, many of the sewers having to be lifted and re-laid at various points throughout the town. This arises chiefly from the want of sufficient outfall. Two streets (Mercer and Regent) were drained this last year at a cost of over £200, and George Street was lifted and re-laid. Four manholes and two flushing tanks were introduced into this contract, which adds to the improvement of the system very much. Complaints have been given in as to the want of proper drainage in Silver Street, and the matter is being inquired into. Kincardine is cleaned by a man employed almost wholly at the work, with the assistance of so many extra hands during the winter. From the low lying situation of the town, its streets are difficult to keep clear, and the inhabitants in general require a good deal of inspection to get them to keep their ashpits and privies in decent order. The sub-sanitary inspector, Mr Robert Russell, is very zealous in his duties, and devotes his whole time to inspecting the place and superintending the repairs on the drainage system. Kincardine was one of the ports where ships were detained for inspection during the cholera precautions, and the hospital there was repaired and made ready for patients last summer, and furnished with beds and bedding, &c. A serious outbreak of scarlet fever occurred in the town during last summer, no fewer than 79 cases being notified. The schools were shut up for several weeks. There were also notified 6 cases of erysipelas and two cases of membranous croup. The dairies in the town are not nearly so well kept as they ought to be, and I attribute the spread of the disease a good deal to this cause. It will be necessary to take firm measures with the cow keepers and milk purveyors within the town. The common lodging-house is a little better kept than what it used to be, and the overcrowding is done away with. The sanitary arrangements are also improved.

Milesmark and Parkneuk.

These villages are almost wholly leased by Messrs John Nimmo & Sons, Coalmasters, and they have improved the place considerably by providing ashpits and privies, repairing the roofs of houses, laying water channels, and the large distribution of water supply to Milesmark. There are a good many drains and sewers still to lay,

and the places are not over cleanly kept. The roads at both places, but more especially at Parkneuk, are simply disgraceful, and must be a source of injury to the health of the inhabitants in wet and dirty weather. Notwithstanding this, no case of infectious disease have been notified during the year from either of the places.

Wellwood.

This village has a supply of water by gravitation, and it is kept clean by the leasees, Messrs Spowart & Coy., Coalmasters. New ashpits and privies are in course of erection. There having been no cases of disease notified during the year.

The labourer's cottages at Lohead Fireclay Works, and the Balmule adjoining, are not well provided with water or drainage. One case of typhoid was reported at Lohead last summer, and the ashpits and privies are attended to more regularly since; but the water is got from a shallow well in the moss adjoining, and lies at a distance from either place. The cottages at Balmule are of a poor character altogether.

Hallbeath Village, Whitefield, and Morningside or Guttergates.

The houses for these villages mostly belong to, or are leased by, Messrs Wallace Brothers, Coalmasters, who are effecting large alterations and improvements on them, as well as the drainage works. A good supply of water is provided to all the places, which is pumped by machinery from the workings, and distributed by gravitation to the different places. It will take a year at any rate before all the improvements in hand can be made. There has been an outbreak of scarlet fever all over these places, commencing about April, and it cannot be said to be over yet. There have been 29 cases notified. In one cottage at Sheephouswell the rooms and water were found to be very bad. The house is to be pulled down immediately; otherwise it would have been reported as unfit for human habitation. Mr John Glass, proprietor of some houses at Guttergates, was ordained by Sheriff Gillespie to do certain works to his houses in order to render them habitable; but these works have only been carried out to a certain extent, no privy or ashpit accommodation being provided yet.

Crossgates, Springhill, and Fordell Square.

These villages form together Crossgates Special Water Supply District, and a special drainage district is being presently formed, embracing the three villages. The water supply is taken from a large open reservoir extending to five acres or thereby, and situated on the north side of Cullalo Hill. Measures are being taken at the present time for increasing the supply, and it is under consideration whether the spring water could be gathered into a clear water tank, and sent direct for use without going through the open reservoir and the filter bed. If this can be accomplished for eight months in the twelve, it would be a great boon to the consumers. Alexander Paterson has superseded James Moodie as sub-sanitary inspector in Crossgates, and as water officer and cleaner of streets. Paterson is very attentive to his inspections and considerable improvement is seen in regard to privy and ashpit accommodation. Fordell Square is cleaned by the proprietors, and ashpits and privies are in course of erection. The drainage scheme for Crossgates district is being considered, and it is

almost settled that the sewage will be conveyed to the west of the village in spigot and faucet fireclay pipes, and carried or led on to a field on the lands of Hallbeath, and there irrigated before being led back to the Mowbray Burn. If these improvements are carried out, this district will be greatly benefited in its sanitary condition. Scarlet fever has been very prevalent in these places last summer, there being 32 cases notified in Crossgates and Springhill, and 14 in Fordell Square. There were also two cases of typhoid fever in Crossgates, and one of erysipelas.

Donibristle Village.

This village has a private water supply brought in by gravitation at the expense of the leasee, Mr Nasmyth of Middlebank. The drainage is chiefly on the surface, and the cleansing is undertaken by Mr Nasmyth also, It has, like all mining villages, a tendency to be dirty.

Hill of Beath Village.

This village has increased from a small hamlet to a large, populous place within the last few years, and a large school has been built to meet the wants of the inhabitants. The Fife Coal Company are the proprietors of the place, and the houses built for their men are above the average of such houses. The inhabitants are supplied with water from Cowdenbeath water pipe, and the quality is fair. The drainage system is not very complete, and it discharges at present into the Mowbray Burn east of Crossgates, and tends to make that place more unhealthy than ought to be. The Fife Coal Company are, however, taking skilled advice in regard to the disposal of their sewage, and the scheme will probably be laid before the District Committee soon. There was an outbreak of scarlet fever here last summer, 19 cases being notified. There was also one case of erysipelas.

Kelty, Oakfield, and Cantsdam.

These villages form one district, both for drainage and water. Oakfield and Kelty are being rapidly built upon, and the new houses require from time to time extension of the drainage and water mains, and these have been carried out at considerable cost. The carrying out of these works brought to the surface the question of the pollution of streams by the discharge of sewage matter into the burns and ditches of the district, and it was remitted to the Local Committee to bring up a report upon the best method of disposal of the sewage, so as to prevent the pollution of streams. A report has been sent in by the Convener of the Local Committee (Sir Charles E. Adam, Bart., of Blairadam), along with a sketch plan indicating the lines whereby an irrigation scheme could be carried out to meet the requirements of the case, and the matter will likely be discussed soon upon its merits. There is a want of water supply during frosty weather, especially at the higher levels of the district. The water is managed by Adam Irvine. The sub-sanitary inspector is William Hoggan, who also inspects Lassodie. The Fife Coal Company keep a man cleaning the places belonging to them, and Messrs Spowart & Co., clean the public ashpits at Lassodie. There were 15 cases of scarlet fever during the year in the district, and two cases of erysipelas.

Lassodie and Fairfield.

These villages are leased by Messrs Spowart & Co., Limited, Coalmasters. The houses are supplied by water from a bore put down half-a-mile west from the village. There is no drainage system in the place, with the exception of some channels for surface water. The roads throughout these villages are of the most wretched character, and cannot be conducive to good health in any way. There were six cases of scarlet fever notified during the last few months, when the schools were vacated for a short time and the premises disinfected. I think that something ought to be done to improve the houses in this quarter, as also the drainage and the roads.

III - HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

Better attention now than formerly is being given to the erection of new houses for the mining and farm labouring classes. The Fife Coal Company at Kelty and Hill of Beath, have advanced very much in this line, and are offering a superior class of dwellings to their men, and receiving higher rents. At Kelty and Oakfield many of the miners are building houses for themselves, and they are very careful in regard to the sanitary arrangements of such structures, and this manifestly shows a tendency in the direction of providing for better health. Messrs Wallace Brothers have commenced to renew the houses at Hallbeath, and Messrs John Nimmo & Son commenced to repairs at Parkneuk, but have stopped in the meantime, as the working of their pits has been interrupted by flooding. But apart from all this there is great room for improvement at the Lassodie villages and other places. No class of workmen earning the same rate of wages as the miners do would ever think of loading their wives and families in such bad and unhealthy houses as are used round many of the coal workings in West Fife. In regard to cottar houses on farms, providing for the farm servant, all new cottages are being built on good principles, both as regards comfort and health. As far as I can ascertain, the bothies of the district are in a bad state, and I purpose going a good deal this year into the condition of the farm servants.

IV. - COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There is only one common lodging-house in the district, that of Henry McDonald, Kincardine on Forth. Considerable alterations and improvements were made to the place last year, and although not up to the letter of the Act in every respect, still decency and order are observed and the place improved.

V. - DAIRIES.

I have gone over the Register of dairies for the district, and I now find that there are 122 byres for this year, with a total of 1515 cows. Twenty of these were registered either for new tenants or new premises, and in the latter case the premises that were made conform to the new regulations. 53 cases were dealt with as to non-conformity with regulations, and some of these are still under consideration. 13 dairies were given up during this year, but one or two of these will be resumed again when the premises are put in order in terms of the regulations. Two byres are given up and the registration cancelled in consequence of the parties thinking the conditions too

stringent. One byre will be discontinued as not being nearly able to conform to the rules, and I purpose asking the medical officer of health to examine the dairies in Kincardine-on-Forth. The milk in nearly all cases is sold warm to the consumers, chiefly in Dunfermline and throughout the villages. Several parties from Kinross-shire sell milk at Kelty, and I found that they were not registered in Kinross. I understand this has now been done, however, but they have not registered with me for the selling of milk, and they refuse to do so. I consider by the Milk shops Order of 1885 they are bound to register in Fife as well as Kinross, seeing they sell milk in the former. Dairy-men and cow keepers as a whole are more careful in regard to the health, comfort, and cleanliness of their cows, and also as to the cleanliness of the milk vessels and the milk houses. This is very satisfactory, but there are a great number lagging behind yet, and it will be necessary to insist on distinct improvement.

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SANITARY CONDITIONS OF FIFE.

The second annual report on the health and sanitary condition of Fifeshire has been issued this week by Mr Thomas Goodall Nasmyth, M.D., D.Sc., D.P.H., F.R.S.E., Medical Officer of Health. The following are several of the salient matters referred to: -

Housing Accommodation.

In 1881 24 per cent of 19,300 families were accommodated in one-roomed houses, and in 1891 only 15 per cent of 20,491 families. This is a very material improvement, and shows that public opinion is being influenced in the direction of increasing, and thereby, improving, housing accommodation. The time will come when there will be no families in the house of one room, in which neither cleanliness or morality can well exist. This tending to improve in this direction is shown to hold all over Scotland, for in all cases houses with two rooms and more have increased, while the dwellings of one room have decreased. In the rural and village groups in Fife the two-roomed dwellings have only slightly increased, but the three and four-roomed dwellings make up for this. The returns for 1891 show a decided improvement in the housing accommodations in the village and rural groups, but the town groups show no change. The number of rooms per house in the villages has increased from 2.7 to 2.9, and the persons per room have decreased from 1.6 to 1.4. In the rural districts rooms have increased from 3.4 to 3.6, and the number of persons in each room has decreased from 1.3 to 1.2. These are only broad generalisations, but they show that there is a decided tendency to enlarge houses and thus diminish overcrowding.

Housing of the Working Classes.

The tendency, without any action on the part of the Local Authority or their officials, is in the direction of improved workmen's houses, and this is much more marked in the case of miners than of ploughmen's and other labourer's. The reasons for this are not difficult to find. Miners are very much in demand in two districts of Fife, owing to the great development of the coalfields there, and an investment of money for miner's houses is consequently a good one. Miners, again, have only a short term of engagement, and if they are not satisfied with their houses they can leave them, so that it becomes a necessity for colliery owners to provide good ones. I have, through the courtesy of several coalowners, been supplied with plans of miner's houses recently erected in Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy districts, and they show very considerable improvements on the old types. The plans of houses shown were erected in Dunfermline District recently, and are very good indeed. Owing to the high rate of wages prevailing at the time of building, the cost of these houses were considerable, but I am informed, that before the houses were completed they were all secured by tenants. In one village in Dunfermline District, after consultation with the owner of

the houses, he decided to entirely reconstruct about 40 houses; but to enable him to do so, without interfering with the employment of the occupants, and unduly harassing them by compulsory removal, demolition and reconstruction are to go on alternately.

The Bothy System.

The houses provided for ploughmen in Fife do not as a rule come up to the standard provided for miners, but the types recently provided are better than the older kinds. The bothy on a farm is usually the most inferior of all the houses, any sort of house being apparently considered sufficient to house young men. It is usually furnished in the barest possible manner - a bed, a chair or form, the chests which contain the men's clothes, and the meal barrels being usually all it contains. Tidiness and cleanliness are conspicuously absent. In this room - where one or two men in the smaller bothies are accommodated - cooking, dressing, and sleeping go on. This room may occasionally get a visit from a woman for cleaning purposes; but these visits are irregular, uncertain, and the work is done in a perfunctory way. These young men must not be allowed to remain disjointed units from the social community, but should become attached members of family life, and thus made to feel they have a position to maintain as respectable members of society. I would propose effecting this by putting two young men under the charge of some respectable married man on the farm, who either has no children or few at home. The cottar houses should have arrangements made for this by the provision of a good-sized room, built specially for this purpose. Where many young men have to be accommodated, the number of rooms would vary accordingly. The wife of the house would cook and wash for the young men, and keep their room in good order, and they would pay for this a sum that would be considered fair and reasonable. I would deprecate the proposal to have more than two young men living together, even as might be under the barracks system. This system under military life is all very well, but then the men are living under strict supervision and military discipline. The interest of the farmer, as well as his duty, should be to visit these rooms frequently, and ascertain for himself if his men are being attended to properly, to discover if they are keeping good hours, and conducting themselves as respectable members of the family to which they are attached. Such an interest taken would, without doubt, lead to good relationships on both sides, and make the young men feel that their good behaviour was a matter of importance. In all this there is nothing Utopian, certainly nothing embarrassing.

Dunfermline District.

A good beginning has been made to improve workmen's houses, both under the Public Health Act and the Special Act dealing with them in this district. I need scarcely add that a very great deal remains to be done. In the various villages and hamlets of the district there are nearly 3000 houses, and to inspect all these and ascertain their condition is a task of no small extent. In addition, there are many isolated cottar houses and workmen's houses doubtless requiring inspection. To undertake all this work we must claim time. At Hallbeath a good deal of work has been done, and a great deal more is to be begun, with suitable weather for the necessary operations. One row of houses was in such bad order, and the proprietor not having been induced by the usual instructions to carry out the needed improvements, had to be ordered by

the Sheriff to do so; but this step I have found to be unusual, as proprietors quite realise their duties and responsibilities when they are pointed out to them. Another row of houses, found on inspection to be damp and not provided with ashpits and other conveniences, has been much improved by the alterations and additions carried out by the proprietor. A great many houses in Hallbeath were found to be damp from want of rhones and conductors, and the proprietor at once provided these when his attention was called to the state of matters. The "Long Row" in Hallbeath is to be entirely reconstructed, and a commencement has been made on the demolition of four houses. On the site of these very good cottages are to be built, and which, when ready, will be occupied by tenants from four other houses to be thereafter demolished. In this way, by construction and demolition alternately, the hardship involved by summarily closing houses will be avoided, and all that is desired will gradually be effected - better houses.

Kirkcaldy District.

In this district a great many houses of a superior type have been erected during the past year. I would specially refer to houses built at Thornton Station provided for the employees of the North British Railway Company. The accommodation provided is as follows: - Each family has three rooms, with scullery and pantry. The larger rooms are of very good size, measuring 12 feet by 11 feet. Excellent washing-houses are provided outside, and a closet for each family. The water is supplied to the houses by gravitation. I had the opportunity of inspecting collier's houses erected some time ago in the district, and recently of examining the plans for these houses. The accommodation provided is as follows: - On the ground floor, a room about 14 feet square, with a bed-closet off it; a kitchen of good size, with two bed spaces; behind the kitchen, a good sized scullery, with boiler and sink; then a coal house and w.c. for each house. Above there is a good sized attic room. In other houses of similar type, washing-houses and trough-closets are provided for groups of houses. These closets, where there are good drains and abundant water, are admirably suited for houses like these. In Auchterderran many houses were found to be in very insanitary conditions, but have been put in good order during the past year. In Ballingry Parish one house was found to be unfit for occupation, and was closed. It has now been remodelled, and made a good one. In Auchterderran Parish several houses were found to be damp and otherwise defective, but the defects were made right without any difficulty. In Burntisland, the village of Binnend, already referred to, was put in a much better state by the provision of water supply and drainage. In Kinghorn Parish a block of cottar houses was found to be in a most insanitary condition from all kinds of defects. A summary notice was sent to the proprietor calling upon him to remedy the defects, and this was attended to in part, but not to my satisfaction. There have been a good many excellent cottages erected in the Coaltown of Balgonie during the past year. At Lumphinnans there are excellent types of colliers' houses very similar to those I have already described, and I understand that there are a great many more to be erected during this year. In Scoonie Parish, six houses at Mountfleurie, twelve at the Broom, and seven at Sillerhole were condemned. The proprietor has begun operations to put them in sanitary states, and after these are finished I shall report to the Local Authority whether or not the alterations are satisfactory.

St Andrews District.

I am able to report that a great many improvements have been carried out on working class houses during the past year. At Radernie several houses were found so defective as to be unfit for habitation, but the proprietor determined to close them rather than expend any money on them. Under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, I have sent out 30 notices to proprietors, asking them, within a time that may be considered quite reasonable, to carry out such alterations as may be necessary. I have communicated in each case with the proprietors, and offered my advice and Mr McLetchioie's in pointing out what may be necessary to make the houses habitable. During the past year a very fair beginning, indeed, has been made in carrying out improvements on houses. In 39 cases structural alterations and improvements have been made, 7 new houses have been built, 6 bothies have been improved and 3 new ones built. In St Monans a house of very inferior nature is used as a common lodging-house, but not registered as such, as the proprietor alleges he charges more than fourpence a night for lodgers, and thus does not bring the house under the Regulation for Common Lodging-Houses. The house is utterly unfit for a lodging-house, and I have served a notice on the proprietor under the Housing of the Working Classes Act calling on him to put his house in order.

Cupar District.

In this district a considerable amount of work has been done in improving defective workmen's houses, and by the building of new ones in place of those condemned as uninhabitable. In all, fifteen new houses have been built to take the place of those that were found to be so defective as to be uninhabitable. The most usual insanitary conditions found in connection with cottar houses is dampness, due to want of drainage, and to the foundations not having been provided with damp-proof courses when the houses were built. It is very unusual to find the soil removed from the back walls to the level of the foundations, and this, with the want of rhones and conductors, keeps it in a permanent damp condition. The floors are very frequently unventilated, and in consequence dry rot is in evidence in many cases. The accommodation provided otherwise is too often of the most meagre description, the kitchen having to take the place of scullery, washing-house, and bedroom. A great many houses in the district require improving, and the work will be done gradually, and not so as to be considered oppressive. In dealing with the important question of housing of the working classes, the greatest care must be taken that burdens are not imposed which will further interfere with an already crippled industry.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1895.

FACTORY LIFE IN SCOTLAND SIXTY YEARS AGO.

A Correspondent writing in the 'Dundee Advertiser' says: - To the great majority of your readers the words used by Sir Walter Scott in his introduction to *Waverley*, "Tis sixty year since", means a long time. To those who were living sixty years ago and wrought in mills and factories it seems only like yesterday since they were boys and girls working the long hours in the "stourie" mill. The mill was not ventilated, and was lighted by whale oil lamps giving out a dark coloured smoke and bad smell, which along with the dust and the heat made the atmosphere anything but wholesome. Those who now work in a jute mill or factory can scarcely form an idea as to what it was like in the beginning of this century. I will not weary myself and your readers by trying to give a history of flax, hemp, and jute spinning and weaving during the past sixty years. Yet a few facts may be interesting if I can put them in the form of a little history, and keeping all the time to the truth, I may thus add something of interest to the now big literature on social and labour questions. More than 80 years ago a handloom weaver got tired of trying to scrape a living out of operating his handloom and decided to move to

THE KINGDOM OF FIFE,

where he got a job as a reeling foreman in a country mill. His wife kept house and "gard auld claes look amaist as weel as new". The bairns, as they grew up, entered the mill - the girls for a few years as bobbin carriers until they were able to spin. The boys also got work, and even this old weaver then had the half-time or day about idea in his head. He had great trouble to be allowed to get his boys to go to school one day and at work the next. He was called a crank, and all manner of names because he would not permit his ten-year-old boy to work 13 or 14 hours every day. The two girls were sent to school the year before they began work, their father continued their education by making them read and study every spare moment, especially on Sundays. One of these girls, after she was a widow and over 50 years of age, was the first woman the writer ever saw reading Shakespeare. She had another book lying beside her, and she said, "Oh, that's

'THE DIALOGUE OF DEVILS',

and I was just looking up the witches in 'Macbeth' to see if Shakespeare was making them speak as they should do". The other girl lived to be over fourscore. As wife and mother she had few equals, and during her long life never forgot to be kindly to all God's creatures. I have often heard these two women speak of their early days - how tired and sleepy they were; and often at their frugal supper, after a 13½ hours days work, it was no uncommon thing for them to fall asleep with a potato in their hand.

Strange is it not that when Lord Ashley and Mr Fielden began to move for shorter

hours they were opposed by almost every employer of labour? The workers were not unanimous amongst themselves that shortening the hours would be an unmitigated blessing. Many said, "Our wages will be reduced; we have too small a pay now, and what will we do when we work shorter time?" The 69 hours a week law was in force when I first knew practically about factory life; 12 hours for five days and 9 hours on Saturday. It may interest your readers when I tell you that I have made out

THE TIME-SHEET AND PAY-LIST

for 69 hours as follows:-

Spinners	5s 6d to 6s a week
Reelers	5s 6d to 6s do.
Preparers	4s 0d to 5s do.
Spreaders	5s 0d to 6s do.
Feeders	5s 6d to 6s do.
Bobbin carriers	2s 6d to 3s do.
Overseer	16s to 20s do.

I do not mention doffer's wages, as it was then the general custom to do without doffers - that is, never stop to doff, but, as we called it, shift the bobbins and the frame running. The fiver yarns generally spun made this possible to a clever woman. After the Corn Laws were repealed, we got the Ten Hours Bill for women and children. It is difficult to say how far we can go in this shortening of hours process, and get good results socially and financially. The 56 hours a week, instead of 69 hours, is an immense step to take. "When man to man the world ower shall brithers be and a' that", very likely our bairns' bairns may live to see 8 hours for 5 days and 4 hours on Saturday - 44 hours a week as the hours of work for women and children, and the pay will not be lowered than it is now. It is not necessary to tell anyone who is even slightly acquainted with mill and factory life in Scotland that shortening the hours of work never permanently reduced the rate of pay. You have only to compare my little pay-list as above for 69 hours work with your rate of wages to-day for 56 hours.

THE HALF-TIME SYSTEM

should, I think, be encouraged, and the best of schools and the best teachers possible should be provided for those despised half-timers. No one who has known the history of the half-timer for the last twenty years needs to be informed that many of the smartest men the world over will tell you that the half-day at work and the half-day at school made men of them, and many a mother who reads these lines will testify to the fact that the half-day at school gave her the taste for reading and the desire to be clean and tidy, and keep a clean hearthstane. To one with the broad Atlantic between him and Scotland the newspaper from home, as he will persist in saying, is read, advertisements and all, with a relish that the stay-at-home does not understand; and when I read of the splendid schoolrooms now in every town and village of Scotland, let me put in a word for the half-timers, and let some good men and women see to it that those bairns who are begun honestly to try to live are cared for as to schooling, and get the best available.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1895.

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR AND THE WEST FIFE VILLAGES.

A good deal has been done for the public health in the villages in the Western District of Fife since the advent of the County Council, but it is apparent from the annual report by the Sanitary Inspector (Mr Maclellan), which we publish this week, that much still requires to be done ere the authorities will be in a position to return a clean bill of health. Even in the "Brighton of the North" the drainage is not perfect, and in the western part of the village, works of a pretty extensive character will have to be faced as soon as the small balance of debt existing on the old works is cleared off. The water question was a good deal with the people during the summer of last year despite all that had been done for the works at Castlandhill tank at the Aberdour pipes through the burgh of Inverkeithing; and the proposal to try to procure a supplementary supply from the Humble Quarry, near Aberdour, has been taken up so seriously that the scoffers and incredulous are now beginning to realise that the matter is not exactly the joke it was alleged to be. Mr Maclellan refers to a complaint about sewer gas in connection with the new drainage works at North Queensferry. It appears that the gas arises through the tide keeping back the overflow of sewage. The modern sanitary Mrs. Partington will have a difficulty in sweeping back the Forth; but she may some day see it to be expedient to change the offending manhole or to put a cover on over it when the tide is in. The Inspector still complains of the drainage and the water supplies of Crossford, Cairneyhill, Torryburn, and Newmills. The agitation for a new water supply for Torryburn has fallen quiet during the past two years, and it appears that the army of progressivists in the village is meantime too small to force on a gravitation supply instead of the old wells at which many a long yarn has been spun and many a pitcher and stoup duel has been fought. Lowvalleyfield had scarcely any alternative but to abandon the gravitation scheme after the Sheriff divided the village into two - finding for one half an ample supply of water, while the other half had not. Lowvalleyfield must remain as one village in water and drainage matters, and the western villagers can only wait on in the hope that their eastern neighbours will some day see the utility of a new water supply. The Fifeshire Main Coal Coy. has brought about a complete transformation in the village of Oakley. Instead of change and decay and ivy clad ruins we have once more -

The whitewashed wall, the nicely sanded floor,
The varnished clock that clicks behind the door.

and an increasing population. The Oakley population may not be the "gazing rustics" Goldsmith had in his mind's eye when he wrote his "Deserted Village." Oakley can scarcely lay claim to being a "Sweet auburn; loveliest village of the plain," but the village is fully occupied with hard working, toiling miners, and we hope that the revival which the Fifeshire Main has brought about will be lasting, and for many a day will give us a condition of things of which it well may be said that the desert is

blossoming as the rose.

Carnock and Gowkhall still continue to play at cross purposes on the water question. Carnock clings to the old wells. Carnock people have such miserable wells to draw upon that they lodged no objections to the proposed gravitation supply. The securing of a new supply for the people of Gowkhall seems therefore only a matter of time.

The "Paradise of Fife" is becoming quite a favourite health resort. The water supply is all that could be desired, but there is a need for an effective system of drainage. Mr Maclellan once more reminds the villagers that this improvement could, because of the lie of the village, be carried out at a comparatively small cost. "Go on with the drainage" is easier said than done in a village with a small rent; but Saline is more fortunately situated in many respects than many villages, and we hope to see the men of progress taking the matter up at no distant date. At Milesmark and Parkneuk Messrs Nimmo & Sons have carried out an extensive scheme of improvements. Things are not all that could be desired yet, but it is difficult to transform an old village into a village with all the advantages of modern village life. Meantime we hope that the improvements effected will be maintained.

The work of demolition continues at the red roofed "Long Row" of Halbeath, and the old dwellings are giving place to new houses of a good type. The village is lit by the proprietor, Mr Wallace, an innovation which might be introduced with advantage in many mining villages in the "Kingdom." The drainage question still continues to be the absorbing theme in connection with the village of Crossgates. At a recent meeting the Dunfermline District Committee of the Fife County Council agreed to shelve the question until the Parish Council was called into existence - the hope being expressed that such a change would be worked by the new water supply as would enable the two bodies to delay taking action for some time. The new Local Government Board will not brook of delay, however. Their fiat has come that reform must be proceeded with, and at a meeting of the committee on Tuesday it was agreed to proceed with a modified scheme meantime. At Hill of Beath the Fife Coal Company are to proceed with a drainage scheme without delay. Mr Maclellan informs us that considerable improvements have been effected at Fordell Square, and this has added to the comforts of many of the people employed at Fordell Colliery. Not a few of the Fordell houses are extremely comfortable, and even after a quarter of a century's use they will compare favourably with many of the houses recently erected at many collieries. Donibristle, Mr Maclellan says, "is well kept" by the Donibristle Coal Company. At Kelty the drainage works have been extended during the year, and a new water supply must be faced at once. Messrs Leslie & Reid are to report upon a new scheme. Taken as a whole Mr Maclellan notices a marked improvement in the house accommodation of the villages, and some cottar houses at the farms. He still complains of overcrowding in the colliery villages, however, and points to the necessity for improvement in many of the houses occupied by agricultural labourers. Mr Maclellan and his staff continue to keep a watchful eye on the milk supplies of the district. Several prosecutions for diluted milk have taken place recently, and a good deal of attention has been devoted during the past year to the dairy buildings. Three buildings where dairies are conducted are reported "unsatisfactory." In concluding his report on dairies Mr Maclellan says: - "A model dairy in every

respect is that of Urquhart farm, Dunfermline. A new byre has been built during this year, and the number of cows for which provision is made is 117, and the cubic space over all the byres is 760 feet for each cow. Lighting, ventilation, and cleanliness are most excellent. The milk houses and scullery are all beautifully fitted up with the newest machinery and appliances known for their different uses at the present day. I have no doubt but dairymen in this country will soon be able to place their goods side by side with Danish competitors, who are at present recognised as the first in this line of industry."

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1895.

THE MIDDLE GRANGE AND CULROSS COALFIELDS.

The Culross Coal Company Floated.

Some time ago a lease was taken by Messrs James Hutton & Son. West Grange, of the extensive coalfields of Middle Grange and Culross, belonging to Mr Johnston of Sands, and during the past nine months trial pits and bores have been put down in various fields on the estate for the purpose of proving the minerals. The results of the surveying have been all that could be desired, and under the title of the Culross Coal Company, the Messrs Hutton have floated a limited liability company. The share capital has been all subscribed for by the directors and their immediate friends. Mr John Hendrie, who had a long connection with the coal trade of the Monkland district, and who has been associated with the Messrs Hutton in the work of exploring the field and developing the upper seams, has been appointed general manager; and it is fully anticipated that his practical knowledge of Coal working, and the indomitable pluck and perseverance of the promoters will result in such a development of the coalfields as will necessitate the employment of a very large staff of miners. An idea of the manner the management are going to work will be apparent when it is stated that in addition to the trial shafts already sunk through part of the metals, the first sod of two shafts, to be sunk in the Middle Grange section of the field, was cut on Wednesday by Miss Marjory Hutton, daughter of Mr James Hutton, one of the directors. No 1 Pit was, in presence of the directors and a considerable number of people, christened "The Madge" Pit. All the seams common to the district are lying untouched in the vicinity of the pits. Meantime it is the intention of the Company to sink the pits to the "Jenny Peat" seam, which lies at a depth of 30 fathoms from the surface. The seam is an average thickness of six feet, and a better coal could not be had for steam purposes. The Overton gas coal lies at a depth of five fathoms below the "Jenny Peat", and under the gas coal there are at least nine workable seams, the upper and lower mynheer, the main coal, the Lochgelly splint, the five foot, and the Dunfermline splint. The different seams give an aggregate thickness of fifty feet of coal, and the lowest seam will be struck at a depth of from 100 to 170 fathoms throughout the estate. The extent of the field is enormous - stretching as it does from a point a little to the north of the Burgh of Culross to a point a considerable distance beyond Middle Grange House - a distance of nearly two miles. A good deal of machinery for the Middle Grange pits has been purchased. Coupled winding engines are to be erected on both pits, and ample provisions will be made for pumping water, should that be necessary. In the Culross section of the field one shaft has already been sunk to one of the upper seams at a point a little to the north of the Abbey, and a second pit has been staked off in a field a little to the south-west of No 1 Pit. In No 1 pit the seam at present being worked is a thin one; but No 2, the "Jenny Peat", is to be worked, and the exploring bore shows that the coal is lying fully six feet in thickness. The little of the upper seams which has been brought to the surface is of good quality, and everything points to the conclusion that the household coals lying at greater depths are

quite equal to the best household seams common to West Fife. On the Culross section of the field a splendid seam of white potters clay, from 11 feet to 13 feet in thickness, has been discovered. Clay of the same quality can scarcely be met with in Scotland, and doubtless the clay will be worked as soon as a connection can be found with the harbour of Culross. The Middle Grange pits are just 400 yards from the North British Railway Company's Stirling and Dunfermline section, and arrangements have been made for connecting the pits with the railway. Hopes are also entertained that the Alloa-Kincardine line will be extended to Culross, and thus give both sections of the field a railway connection. The prospect of the opening up of the minerals has brought new life to the ancient burgh of Culross, and already inquiries for houses are being made. It is the intention of the company to proceed with the erection of a number of houses at Middle Grange.

Culross Once A Centre of Mining Activity.

History repeats itself. Culross was once a mining centre of activity and should things go as anticipated in connection with the new works, the whin bullet-paved street of the ancient burgh will once more echo and re-echo to the hobnailed boots of the miner. Most of our mining readers are aware that Culross was not only once famous for girdles, but the burgh can also boast of having early in the seventeenth century given a new impulse to mining. The system of working coal by means of water levels and pits - known as the pit and adit system - sufficed for a period of about four centuries after coal-working had been commenced; but by this time much of the shallow coal, capable of being drained this way, had been worked out. In the middle of the sixteenth century the decay of the "coal-heughs," as the collieries were then usually called, began to become a source of the greatest anxiety. It was thought that the fuel supply of the country was almost exhausted. At this time, says Mr R.L. Galloway, mining engineer, to quote the language of the period, there was "a maist exhorbitant derth and scantness of fewall." To remedy matters, an Act of Parliament was passed in the reign of Mary, Queen of Scots, peremptorily prohibiting the exportation of coal under severe penalties. The introduction of machinery for raising water from the mines, which took place about 1600, enabled the miners to attack deeper reaches of coal, and changed the whole aspect of the coal trade. To foster it still further, Parliament reduced the colliers to slavery, and empowered the owners of collieries to apprehend all vagabonds and sturdy beggars to set them to work. By this means the coal trade was revived. It is said of this trade, that though it is often sick it never dies. The best machine in use for draining the mines, during the seventeenth century, was the Egyptian wheel, or chain of buckets. - a very ancient piece of machinery which had been employed in the East from time immemorial for raising water from deep wells. Among the first to apply one of these machines to mine-drainage in Scotland was Sir George Bruce at Culross. By the aid of his water engine, Sir George recovered the colliery of Culross, which had been abandoned, and by his enterprise and ingenuity made it one of the wonders of the time - the workings being carried a mile under the Firth of Forth. This colliery, as reorganised by Sir George, had two pit shafts, one of which was situated on the fore-shore, in a little artificial island near low water mark. The other pit was on the edge of the shore, and here was placed the engine which drew the water from the mine. It was driven by three horses, and consisted of an endless chain with thirty-six buckets attached to it, of which

eighteen were continually full of water. The buckets filled themselves in a well at the bottom of the pit, and emptied themselves into a trough at the top as they passed over the axle-tree. Our readers are well aware there is a tradition that King James VI., when hunting in the neighbourhood, in 1617, paid a visit to Sir George Bruce, and descended his wonderful colliery. The Royal party entered the mine by the shaft on the small artificial island. The tide happened to be high at the time, and the King, not knowing the peculiar arrangement of the mine, on arriving at the top and finding himself surrounded by the sea, at once suspected a plot on his life and shouted "Treason." Sir George, however, instantly explained the matter. Pointing at the same time to a beautiful boat waiting to take the party ashore, and his Majesty's equanimity was soon restored. Extensive as George's works were, they do not seem to have extended beyond a point a little to the north of the burgh, and the new coal company are not likely to be troubled to any extent with sixteenth and seventeenth century workings, even on the southern edges of the great Culross field. Sir George seems to have confined himself more to the minerals in the vicinity of the burgh and under the Forth, than to the coalfields to the north of the burgh.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1895.

A KINNEDDAR PIT ON FIRE.

TWO MEN KILLED AND EIGHT INJURED.

Terrible Destruction of Colliery Plant.

The preparations which were being made by the miners of Fife, for the celebration next week of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the eight hours a day system of working in the mines, received yesterday a terrible check by an accident, which occurred at the Fifeshire Main Company's pits at Kinneddar, through which two men were killed, eight men injured, and a great loss sustained through the destruction of colliery plant. The Fifeshire Mains Company's works are situated at the foot of the Saline Hills, about four miles from the burgh of Dunfermline, and the colliery consists of two pits - an upcast and a downcast shaft - which are separated from each other by not more than thirty yards. Both shafts are sunk to the Lochgelly splint seam, a depth of about sixty fathoms, and because of the brittle nature of the metals passed through the pits are lined from top almost to the bottom with strong wooden beams. The air in the mines is quickened by a rarefying furnace which is built in the Jersey seam about eleven fathoms up the upcast shaft. The pits are worked on the double shift system - one shift commencing operations at seven o'clock in the morning, while the men engaged in the second shift are lowered at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. One hundred and eighteen men were lowered at seven o'clock, yesterday and all seems to have gone well during the day until a few minutes before three o'clock when the fore shift men began to ascend and the back shift men began to assemble on the pithead. At this hour

An Unusual Volume of Smoke

was observed coming up the upcast shaft, and the men on the pithead at once came to the conclusion that something was wrong. Before they had thought long over probable theories as to the dense smoke, Mr John Coupar, the underground manager, arrived on the pithead, and announced that the woodwork of the upcast shaft had caught fire in the vicinity of the furnace. Mr Calderwood, the general manager, who had just arrived at the scene, at once grasped the situation, and with his undermanager leapt on to the cage and descended the downcast shaft. Mr Calderwood and Mr Coupar were in the seat of the fire in little more than a couple of minutes, and they found that a number of men, including Alexander Thomson, the night inspector, were bravely trying to cope with the burning by pouring water on the flames. The flames were by this time roaring furiously a considerable distance up the shaft, and Mr Calderwood at once came to the conclusion that the water which could be carried in vessels by even an increased squad of men could have no effect on the burning. he

accordingly drafted the men to different points in the air courses and started them on the work of stopping in the hope of being able to cut off the air from the rarefying shaft. Meantime, care was taken to dispatch messengers for the men engaged at the coal face, and within a few minutes all the men, with the exception of those actively engaged in the extinguishing work, had been got to the surface. After making a journey through the lower workings to see that the stopping work was being carried on effectively, Mr Calderwood entered the cage of the downcast shaft with a view of being raised to the higher bottom. Through some little mistake or another he was raised to the surface. The cage was lowered without delay, and a squad of men came to the pit bank to announce that they had been completely beaten off by the flames, the repeated falls of debris down the upcast shaft having completely changed the air current. With such fury had the flames turned upon the men that some of them were badly burned about the face and hands. The cage was again lowered with all possible speed, and in a few seconds a second batch of the extinguishers had arrived on the pithead to tell the same story. Some of the second batch of men also bore marks of the terrible position in which they had been placed. An enquiry on the part of the general manager brought out the fact that two men, namely, Frank Sharp (61), a miner residing at Comrie Village, and a relative named Thomas Sharp (25), also residing in Comrie Village, were amissing. When this discovery was made, the smoke was issuing from all parts of the pit, and the cages even in the downcast shaft stood in a dense volume of smoke. A slight clearance was effected by rushing a large volume of water from the pumps down the mine, and Mr Calderwood got on the cage, calling for volunteers who were prepared to descend the shaft. He very soon had John Coupar, the underground manager, and John Hynd, the night fireman, by his side, and the three men descended to the Jersey or upper seam where it was known the men had been employed at the blocking up work. No trace of the missing men could be found, and a second descent of the same explorers was as futile as the first. Further assurances having been given that the Sharps had been seen in the mine at a late stage of the work, a third descent was made - but this time the explorers went to the lowest seam. On reaching the bottom they were horrified to find the two men lying on the plates - the unfortunate men having

In Scrambling About In The Dark

fallen from the Jersey seam to the Lochgelly splint down the shaft, a distance of eleven fathoms. On the two men being brought to the surface it was found that life was extinct - the injuries sustained by the fall having been of such a nature as to cause instantaneous death. The bodies having been dispatched to the respective homes of the poor men, attention was directed towards the injured who, meantime, had been accommodated in the colliery office. It was found that the following were all suffering from burns of a more or less serious nature: - Alexander Thomson, Blackhouse, Oakley; William McKenna, Torryburn; Lockhart Bleloch, Comrie Village; John Hunter, Comrie; George Ramage, Oakley; Thomas Hunter, Comrie; George Bell, Oakley; and Alexander Short, Oakley. Telephone messages were dispatched to Dunfermline, and in a remarkable brief space of time the most of the injured men had been removed to Dunfermline Cottage Hospital. The dead and injured removed, Mr Calderwood and a large squad of men were able to turn their attention on the work of attempting to extinguish the burning. Short as the space of

time had been from the time the smoke was noticed, the burning had made terrible progress in the upcast shaft, and the flames were issuing from the mouth of the shaft - fifty feet from the actual seat of the fire. The pithead frame soon caught fire, and shortly after the flames had begun to rise the height of sixty feet above the pit mouth, the huge wooden frame fell a total wreck, some of the burning planks going reeling down the shaft. The pithead fittings also caught fire and communicated the burning to the winding engine house. The wire rope became all tangled and twisted, and before many minutes had passed the winding drum stood a naked frame. The winding coupling engines, which were of the most approved type, were much damaged by the fire. Seeing that it was hopeless to attempt to extinguish the burning by ordinary methods, Mr Calderwood and his staff of men closed the mouth of the now ruined upcast shaft, stopped the pumping engine in the downcast shaft, and dampened down the downcast shaft. At the hour of writing the heat was intense at the mouth of the upcast shaft, and at repeated intervals huge rumblings took place, which indicated the work of destruction in the upcast was complete. Everything pointed to the conclusion that the metals had caught fire in the vicinity of the upcast shaft. the flow of water is from three hundred to four hundred gallons per minute, but the workings in the two seams extend to such a distance that a considerable time must elapse before the water can reach the seat of the fire. Hopes are entertained, however, that the damping down expedients resorted to will retard the burning to such an extent that the water will have risen before greater damage has been done to the general workings. Meantime upwards of two hundred men are thrown idle.

Interviews.

In an interview with one of our representatives, Mr Calderwood said that he grasped the situation as soon as he came forward and noticed the dense volume of smoke issuing from the upcast shaft. The destruction of the woodwork in the shaft and the gearing of the pit was the work of a few minutes. The men made rapid progress with the stopping he had started them upon, and if they had only got a little more time, there can have been little doubt but the extinguishing work would have soon reduced the fury of the burning.

One of the men engaged at the work of stopping says: - "After we had proceeded a short time with our work, a tremendous fall of rubbish came down the upcast shaft and drove the flames out upon us. Our lamps were blown out and the air current became changed. Feeling we were in great danger of losing our lives, all the squad at once began to scramble in the dark to the bottom of the upcast shaft. We found our way by running our hands along the signal wire of the roadway. It was with great difficulty some of us managed to scramble to the bottom. The pain from the burns was intense."

An eye-witness says: - "I have never seen a fire burn with such fury. Within ten minutes of the discovery of the burning, the upcast shaft had become a burning funnel, and in little more than an hour, the shaft and gearing had become a total wreck. Because of the enormous height of the pithead frame, it was dangerous to go within 50 yards of the upcast shaft."

Another eye-witness says: - "I could compare the burning in the shaft to nothing but a huge blast furnace, and I have seen nothing approaching the scene after the pithead frame and the engine house had taken fire."

Large crowds of people visited the scene of the fire in the course of the evening - Mr Weir, the miners secretary, putting in an early appearance. In the villages where the men engaged in the pits were resident, great excitement prevails.

LATEST DETAILS.

TWO DEATHS IN THE HOSPITAL

OTHER MEN CRITICAL.

Saturday, 1 a.m.

A visit to Dunfermline Cottage Hospital at one o' clock this morning showed that the catastrophe was much more serious than was first anticipated. All the injured, with the exception of Lockhart Bleloch, were removed to the hospital, and at a glance the doctors who had been summoned - nearly all the Dunfermline medical men were soon in the building - saw that at least six of the seven men brought in were in anything but a comfortable state. John Hunter (30) and Alex Thomson (35) were indeed found to be in an extremely critical state, and before 12 o'clock had been struck both men had succumbed to their injuries. So badly were their faces charred that the poor men were beyond recognition before the end came.

Late - At 1.30 o'clock another of the men was reported to be sinking fast, and two of his comrades showed symptoms which could not fail to give the gravest cause for alarm. Nearly all the medical men have been on duty the whole night, and the hospital staff have not had a single moments rest.

ANOTHER TWO DEATHS.

Later - Saturday, 2 a.m.

On inquiry at the hospital at 2 a.m., we were informed that another two of the men, George Ramage and Thomas Hunter, had died - making six deaths in all. The condition of the other three men in the hospital had become much more critical - convulsions having supervened.

THE CONDITION OF THE OTHER THREE MEN.

Latest - 2.30

In the course of a conversation at this hour, Dr Dow stated that he found that some of the men must have inhaled heated particles of dust, which had the effect of accelerating death. Several of the men had vomited black matter. The immediate cause of death, however, had been exhaustion and the extensive surface covered by the burns - heads, faces, and bodies being terribly scorched. The three men who are still alive are in an extremely critical state. One of them, at least, cannot survive many hours.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1895.

THE KINNEDDAR COLLIERY DISASTER.

THE PUBLIC INQUIRY.

The public inquiry was resumed in the Dunfermline Sheriff Courthouse on Tuesday into the cause of the burning accident, by which nine men lost their lives at the Fifeshire Main Coal Company's works at Kinneddar on 31st May last. Seven of the men, it will be remembered, were fatally burned while employed cutting off the air current from the burning upcast shaft, while the other two men were killed by falling from one seam to another in attempting to make their escape up the downcast shaft. The Commissioner was Mr J. Comrie Thomson, advocate, Edinburgh, and the Assessor Mr J.B. Atkinson, H.M. Inspector of Mines. The Mineowners were represented by Mr C.J. Guthrie, advocate, instructed by Mr A. Guthrie, S.S.C; and Mr A.J. Young, advocate, instructed by Mr Jas Currie Macbeth, solicitor, Dunfermline, Fife and Kinross Miners' Association. Mr McFarlane was present representing the Crown. Mr Weir was also present along with Mr Robert Smillie, President of the Scottish Miners' Federation; Mr William Parrot, Yorkshire, and Mr George Hancock, Nottingham, members of the British Federation Executive.

TUESDAY'S EVIDENCE.

A COLLIERY MANAGER'S EVIDENCE.

James Ritchie, manager, Gartness Colliery, Airdrie who was the first witness examined, deponed in answer to Mr Guthrie: - I have been manager of Gartness Colliery for eight years, and have been connected with mining for 25 year. I have been shown a plan and model of the Fifeshire Main Colliery, and my attention has been directed specially to the fact that there had been a furnace at No. 3 shaft. Cubes when properly looked after constitute a fairly safe arrangement. After the pits are fully developed a fan is generally adopted instead of a cube. Cubes are put down sometimes as a temporary arrangement until the workings are fully developed. There is always danger connected with the use of cubes; but when the cubes are properly looked after there is not so much danger. The safety or danger of a cube such was in operation at Kinneddar would depend on how the cube was used. In what I have said I have kept in view the fact that the fire bars and a fire lamp were in use in addition to the cube. Mr Calderwood's plan of putting a stopping into the workings, after the fire broke out, was a wise one. If there were plenty of men and plenty of material the stopping should have been erected within three quarters of an hour. Other methods of extinguishing the fire might have been adopted - closing the mouths of the shafts after the men had been brought to the surface. I know nothing that could have enabled Mr Calderwood to have foreseen what took place. I should have expected that the

stopping would have been completed before any substantial fall of debris would have taken place in the burning shaft. A ventilation registering 20,000 cubic feet per minute seems to me to be fairly good for the number of men employed in the pits.

By Mr Young - The cause of the accident was the reversion of the air current, and the cause of that must have been the giving way of the lining of the shaft. The lining fell on account of the fire. The fire must have been caused by either flames or sparks from the cube.

Would it not have been safer to have had the cube further back from the shaft? I have known cases of fire where the cube was 20 or 40 yards away from the shaft. Possibly it might have been safer if the cube had been further away but I cannot say positively. I do not remember ever finding a cube, an open fire place, and a fire lamp all used together for ventilating purposes.

Don't you think that the risk from fire would be greatly increased by the use of the open fire-place and the fire-lamp? - The larger the fireplace the greater the draught, and the greater would have been the tendency to set fire to the shaft. I would have had an open fire-place if I had thought it necessary to increase the ventilation, but not if I had considered it dangerous. It was an element of consideration that the shaft was timbered throughout and that the roof of the bottom was also timbered. The presence of the fire would dry the timber and make it more inflammable.

If you had been in Mr Calderwood's place would you have adopted the plan of putting in a stopping? - I think I would have done that. On the spur of the moment it was a rather prudent thing to do.

Supposing you had known that the shaft was in flames from top to bottom would you have ordered the men to put in a stopping? If I had thought I had time to erect a stopping I would have done it.

Which end would it serve to put in a stopping? - It would stop the current of air and extinguish the fire.

Had the fire in the shaft not done as much harm as it could have done? - No. I have known a shaft on fire and the flames coming out of the mouth of the shaft. When the fire was extinguished it was found that the timber remained sufficient for its purpose, as only the skin of the timber had been burned. The fire might have been extinguished by stopping the mouths of the shafts; but before this plan was attempted the men would require to be all out of the mine. Had I been on the ground I would have adopted the plan of stopping adopted by Mr Calderwood.

Would you have adopted that course even although you had known that the upcast shaft was on fire? - If I had thought that there was time to put in a stopping.

If you had known that the shaft was wholly on fire would you have put in a stopping such as Mr Calderwood did? - Well, the shaft being on fire I certainly would have taken the precaution of putting in a stopping and trying to cut off the air current.

Re-examined by Mr Guthrie - To station a man at the furnace and furnish him with a supply of water were just the precautions which would have been taken to prevent fire. It is not possible to judge accurately of the strength and position of the fan until the workings had been developed to a considerable extent. It is quite a usual thing to adopt a temporary expedient until the workings are developed. The fact that the flames were in the shaft did not necessarily indicate that the shaft was on fire from top to bottom.

By Mr Atkinson - I have had experience of a few cases of fire.

In the case of the Kinneddar an open fire was built on the day of the accident, and within a few hours after the open fire was lit the woodwork of the shaft was on flames - do you consider that the building of this open fire indicated a lack of judgement? - Well, it would depend upon the surroundings and the precautions taken. It might have been a lack of cautiousness at the fire.

Mr Comrie Thomson - The fire was attributable to some cause. I suppose it come to this that the fire got too strong or was too near the timber.

By Mr Atkinson - Do you think that there was a lack of caution in looking after the fire or in building the open fire? - There may have been a want of caution in looking after the fire.

A MINING ENGINEER'S EVIDENCE.

John Watson Ormiston, mining engineer, Glasgow, questioned by Mr Guthrie, deponed that for two years he had been consulting engineer to the Fifeshire Main Colliery. He had examined the plan and model. He had no fault to find with a cube as a temporary arrangement. In the present case the cube was used for a temporary purpose, because it had not yet been settled where the permanent fan was to be placed. The workings were not fully developed to make it possible to say what size of fan should be used or where it should be placed. He found no reason to find fault with the size of the cube or its position. If black damp were found in the pit the day before the accident there was no objections to adding to the heat by means of an additional fire upon the bars, provided a screen of bricks and a covering had been erected to deflect the heat or flames into the shaft. It was natural to expect, if there was no covering, that the heat and flames would ascend and attack the wooden roof above. The plan of erecting a stopper where the manager put it, so as to shut off the air from the fire was the method that witness himself would have adopted. If there was no material suitable for closing over the pit mouth, the quickest course was that adopted. He would not have anticipated a reversal of the air current. He would not have expected such a considerable fall of debris as would have reversed the current. He was taking into account the nature of the strata, and the fact that the timber was fresh. From the statement of the circumstances made to him by Mr Calderwood, witness thought he would have acted just as Mr Calderwood had done.

By Mr Young - The pit was in ordinary working order. He was consulted by the

manager about various matters connected with the pit, and long prior to the accident it was explained to him that it was intended to erect a ventilating fan. That was his impression; he was not positive about it. He was not consulted as to the erection of a fan. The position of the fan would be at the end of the upcast shaft, but he understood it had not been settled which was to be the permanent upcast shaft. It had been suggested that there should be another shaft which would have been the permanent upcast shaft. He considered in the circumstances, especially in view of the wood above, that a brick screen and covering at the open fire would have been a necessary and ordinary precaution. He would not have allowed a fire without a covering, when there was wood above, but his experience made him more careful in this respect than many. The two pit bottomers at No. 2 pit were not sufficient to look after the fire. Men ought to be told off to do nothing but watch it.

By Mr Guthrie - A pit bottomer would have been a quite suitable person to watch the fire if he did nothing else to do.

Supposing the fireman was told specially to look after the fire, would that have been the kind of precaution you would have expected? - Yes.

By Mr Atkinson - The fan was preferred because with it they got a very speedy current of air, and there was no risk of fire.

CUBES OR FANS.

Alexander Simpson, mining engineer, Glasgow, deponed - In former years the cube was used as a means of ventilation. In such districts as Fifeshire, where there is little or no gas in the workings, it is usual to employ cubes until it is settled where the fan should be situated; but in Lanarkshire, where there is a good deal of gas, we do not like to use cubes at all. Assuming that the cube was properly attended to, I should not have anticipated any danger at Kinneddar. The usual mode of getting quit of black damp was to increase the ventilation; and if black damp had been discovered at Kinneddar the day before the accident, it was right to try to increase the current of air by increasing the heat. If the fire put down on iron bars near the cube was not a particularly large one, I should not have anticipated any danger, looking at the space and the ignitable matter. If the fireman had been told to keep a watch and a plentiful supply of water was kept close by, I should not have thought that there was any probability of danger. The fire lamp was a very small thing, and could not have increased the danger of combustion to any extent. I am of opinion that Mr Calderwood acted wisely in proceeding to put in the stopping he did in the hope of cutting off the air current. It would have been exceedingly dangerous, indeed madness, to have proceeded to stop up the mouths of the shafts while the men were in the pit.

By Mr Young - My information about the facts of the case is mainly derived from the report of the last day's proceedings in a Dunfermline paper. I had a talk with Mr Calderwood this morning. The fire must have been caused by sparks or something from the cube or the open fire. A man watching the fire could so regulate it as to prevent sparks rising. The reason why the fan is preferred to the cube is because with

the former there is no danger of fire, and it produces a much more satisfactory ventilation. In the long run, in a pit which requires a good deal of ventilation, the fan is the cheaper expedient. It is not usual to erect a fan which involves considerable outlay until the conditions of the workings are understood, but a fan is generally erected at the first where a good deal of gas is evolved in the colliery. The expense of the fan is incurred rather than run the risk arising from gases. If it be the case as I am informed, that the nearest woodwork was 13 feet from the cube, and there being so much space around, I should not expect mischief to have followed. Apart from what occurred in the present instance, I should not have found fault with the arrangements, but I now, after what has happened, say that they might have been better. I do not consider from November 1894 to May 1895 an extraordinary long time in which to use the cube before fixing the position of a fan, particularly if it be the case as I am informed, that the owner had some anticipation of a fault being come upon between No. 1 and No. 3 pits. I cannot recall any instance of having seen fire-lamp, and open furnace, and a cube used together, but it seems to me a natural thing that the ventilation should be increased by such expedients when black damp is found in the pits. Even if the timbering of the shaft had been got hold of by the fire it was a wise thing to put a stopper where it was erected. It would not have occurred to me that it was probable that the debris in the shaft would fall or that something would occur to reverse the current. I think the decision of the stopping was quite consistent with the probable safety of the men. It was quite right to withdraw the men from the pits, but it seems to me it was a practical thing to get the men to erect the stopping so as to save the property. If an attempt had been made to close the mouth of No. 3 shaft it is quite possible that part of the surface would have given way and the men falling down and been killed. There was danger either way, but I should have done what the manager did.

A MINER'S NARROW ESCAPE.

John Hind, fireman, stated that he had been employed at the Fifeshire Main Colliery for about two years and was there at the time of the accident. He went on duty at 3 p.m. and left off work at 11 p.m. It was part of his duty to attend to the cube, which was kept going night and day. He never heard any complaints about the ventilation or the furnace. He never saw any sign of fire about the wood near the furnace. When he went to the pit at 3 p.m. on the day of the accident to start work he noticed extra smoke coming out of No. 3 shaft. Cooper told him to put some planks across the mouth of the shaft. Witness put one or two planks across, but the smoke was coming up in such dense volumes that they had to desist. Witness afterwards went down No. 2 pit with George Bell, who was killed. Witness was at the place where the stopping was being erected and was sent to another part of the pit for shovels. After he had gone some distance he heard a noise as of something falling in No. 3 shaft. He returned, and on his way back towards the stopping he was met by some smoke. He saw no flame. By the time he reached the pit bottom the injured men had been taken up. When he first went down the shaft he did not think there was any danger. He never thought that anything would fall down the shaft and reverse the air current. The other men did not seem to have any anticipation of danger either.

By Mr Young - Cooper, the underground manager asked him to put the planks across

the mouth of No. 3 shaft a few minutes after the fire broke out. The men had not been withdrawn from the pit at that time.

By Mr Atkinson - When he went along with George Bell towards No. 3 shaft he saw some small pieces of burning timber falling from the roof.

ANOTHER ESCAPE - PRESSURE ON THE CARS.

John Duff, miner, in answer to Mr Guthrie deponed - I have been employed at mining for 20 years. I was on the backshift at Kinneddar Colliery and arrived at the pithead on the day of the accident at 2.30 p.m. At that time there was more smoke than usual coming up the upcast shaft; but not enough to attract particular attention. About twenty minutes after that, however, the smoke became heavy, and a boy arrived on the pithead and stated that he had been sent for canvas to use as a screen for keeping back smoke. Immediately after this Mr Calderwood and Mr Cooper arrived on the pithead from the bottom of No. 2 pit, and ordered the men to fetch wood because they intended to put in a stopping. The wood was put on to the cage and Mr Calderwood, and Mr Cooper, and another two men and I descended the shaft to put in the stopping. We had not got far on with the work when it was found that we would need clay. George Ramage, Bell, and I, were dispatched for clay to another part of the workings. Ramage and Bell were both fatally injured. While I was engaged at the clay a boy cried to run. I got to the surface all right.

By Mr Young - When a boy came up the pit and at first announced that the upcast shaft was on fire, I called to the pitheadman to get the men up first and foremost. That was before I went down with Mr Calderwood. Just as Mr Calderwood gave the order for us to go and get clay I heard a roar in the upcast shaft as if the flames were making headway.

By Mr Atkinson - Before the boy called to run, while clay was being put into the hutches I noticed that a change had taken place in the air current. The air seemed to be going in both ways, and it made such a pressure on the ears as to make me think that my head was going to burst. I thought that something was wrong; but I did not stop work until the boy called to me.

THE GENERAL MANAGER RECALLED.

Robert Calderwood, general manager, who was examined at great length at a previous sitting of the court was recalled and answered a number of questions on the closing of the mouths of the shafts after the men had been all got to the surface. The splint seam had only been working a few months previous to the accident. The fan on No. 1 pit was not sufficient for the whole colliery, and we had to decide where a fan which would ventilate the whole colliery should be placed. The erection of a fan was in contemplation. There had been a suggestion to the effect that there was a fault between No. 1 and the other pits; and it was only in April that a roadway was completed, proving that there was no fault.

By Mr Young - The question of erecting a fan for the whole colliery had been

discussed by the chairman of the company and myself two months before the accident.

By Mr Atkinson - At the time of the accident only one of the cages in No. 2 shaft happened to be connected with the enginehouse.

Mr Guthrie - This closes my evidence, my lord.

THE EVIDENCE FOR THE MINERS.

A BOTTOMER AND THE CUBE.

David Hunter, questioned by Mr Young, deponed - I acted as bottomer in No. 2 shaft. I had also to attend the cube of No. 3 pit. Connors, another bottomer, attended the cube also. I have also seen the roadsman and the underground manager looking after the cube. On the morning of the accident an open fire had been lit near the cube. The fire was laid on six feet rails. There was a considerable current of air. Cooper gave me special directions on the morning of the accident to attend to the fires. He asked me to carry water and empty it on the wood-work for fear of the wood getting heated. Connors was not on duty that day; but another young man, Murdoch, was asked to help me. Cooper showed me where I was to empty the water. I put the water on the crossbars and the sides. I complained to Cooper about it being too hot to put the water on the spot that he suggested, and I also stated that I thought the fires were too big. I said I was convinced the thing would go up. I got sick of the job and got Cooper persuaded to send Murdoch, my companion, to take up the work. On my return at 2 o'clock I noticed nothing wrong. The first alarm I heard was when Cooper said that the pit was on fire. I went immediately to the bottom of No. 3 shaft, and found the woodwork right above the new fire place on fire. I do not think the sides were burning at that time. I helped to throw water on the roof, but it did not seem to do any good. I cried to some men that the pit was on fire, and that they were to warn the others. When I got to the pithead I found that the frame of No. 3 pit was on fire, and I saw it fall to the side. The engine house had been burnt by this time. A lot of burning stuff was coming up the shaft. Sometime afterwards Mr Calderwood appeared and asked the help of six men to go below. Calderwood said to my father "Your a good man. You'll need to come down". My father did not seem inclined to go, and some of the men said to him "You're never so sticking as that", whereupon he said "In that case, I'll go", and he went. Soon after Mr Calderwood and my father went down, I saw smoke issuing from No. 2 shaft.

By Mr Guthrie - On the day of the accident the water tank was quite full, and when I left it at 11 o'clock there was still water in it. Down to that time there was always someone near the cube charged with looking after it.

By Mr Atkinson - I saw nothing on the surface to indicate that there had been a fall of material in the shaft.

A FIREMAN'S VIEW.

Thomas Sharp, fireman, said that he was on the night shift from December 1894 to the time of the accident. He had to look after the fires from the time the inspector left at 11 at night to 6.30 next morning. All he had to do was to attend to the cube at N. 3 shaft. Shortly after he went to the colliery he had twice to reduce the fire in the cube because he was afraid the timber would catch fire. Two or three times he had said to the underground manager that he thought that the fire was not in the right place, and that there was danger of the timber catching fire. On the morning of the accident Cooper told him that he wanted an extra fire put on, as there had been black damp showing.

By Mr Guthrie - His brother and his nephew were killed in the accident.

WHAT A CHECKWEIGHMAN SAW.

John Simpson, checkweighman, deponed that after the fire broke out he saw people attempting to cover up the mouth of No. 3 shaft, and he told the engineer that if it was persisted in the men in No. 2 pit would be suffocated. The engineer said "I cannot desist, it's the manager's orders". At that time there was no appearance of flame, but a great amount of smoke. He went to No. 2 pithead to attend to his duties, and he said to the pitheadman that he should stop drawing coals and get the men up. His suggestion was not followed. Coals continued to be drawn up until 4 minutes to 3 o'clock, although not to the same extents as previously. Before 3 o'clock the flames were leaping right over the pulleys.

By Mr Atkinson - He did not see anything on the surface which would have caused a rumbling noise in No. 3 shaft. It was impossible to get close to the pit mouth in consequence of the smoke and flame. His impression was that it was the cradling of the pit near to the surface that had given way.

The inquiry was at this stage adjourned until Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY'S EVIDENCE.

The inquiry was resumed at ten o'clock on Wednesday morning.

Mr Thomson asked Mr Young if he intended leading evidence as to anything falling down the shaft. The evidence as it stood was vague. All they had got was that something had fallen down the shaft and that something reversed the current.

Mr Young said that Mr Calderwood had spoken to the fall of a cage, and there was evidence as to the fall of timber work.

Mr Thomson said that the shaft must have been fully inspected since the accident, and at the close of the evidence he should like to have Mr Calderwood in the box once more.

HOW WATER WAS CARRIED.

Robert Murdoch, Store Row, Oakley deponed - I started work at Kinneddar on the Monday before the accident. I got no instructions from Cooper to attend to the furnace at No. 3. At eleven o'clock Hunter told me to carry water to fill the kettle at the furnace. I was told by Hunter to put water on the wood-work occasionally. He felt the heat too strong for him, and asked me to put the water on the wood. Cooper said nothing about me taking Hunter's place. Before I began, Cooper took a pailful of water and threw it on the woodwork to show me how to do it. I had to throw the water over the top of the fire, and wet the woodwork at the back with it. The woodwork was about three feet from the furnace. I threw water on the wood at intervals until about 2.30. There was not a man watching the furnace. It was not usual to have a man there. About twenty minutes to three I heard an alarm of fire. I was that time bottoming at No. 2. Hunter was with me, and he went to No. 3, taking the pails with him. I went up for screen cloth, and on taking it towards No. 3 shaft I saw the shine of the fire.

By Mr Guthrie - I had nothing to do with the furnace prior to the day of the accident. Connors was the man who attended to it. I do not remember seeing Alexander Thomson on the day of the accident. When I left off carrying water at 2.30 there was no one in charge of the fire. I left because the kettle was full of water. I told John Cooper that the kettle was full. He knew I was leaving. Between 11 and 2.30 I was carrying water to the kettle, and was therefore sometimes away from the furnace. I cannot say whether Thomson was at the furnace during the intervals I was away from it. No coal was put on the cube, furnace, of firelamp between 11 and 2 o'clock. No one saw him do so.

By Mr Atkinson - I cannot say how many pailfuls of water I brought between 11 and 2 o'clock. I think I would bring a race every quarter-of-an-hour. I generally put one pailful of water into the kettle and dashed another on to the woodwork. There were big fires on. I felt the heat oppressive when dashing water on the woodwork.

Why did you not throw all the pailfuls of water on to the woodwork? - Because my orders were to fill the kettle.

By Mr Guthrie - I brought two pailfuls of water every journey.

Michael Connors, Comrie Village, questioned by Mr Young deponed - I was one of the bottomers of No. 2 pit. David Hunter was my fellow bottomer. I was engaged on the east side and he was engaged on the west side. It was the duty of the bottomers to open and shut the gates at the entrance to the mouth of the shaft as the cage started for the surface. Only one of the gates was connected with the dial in the engine house, so that the engineman could tell whether the gate was shut or not. The bell was on the west side, and that was the proper side for the men going on to the cage. On coming along the east level loading from No. 3 pit the men got to the west side of No. 2 by means of a passage running between the south side of the pit and the wall. It was part of my duty to attend to the furnace of No. 3 pit. I was not on duty on the day of the accident. The kettle for water had stood near the furnace from the start. The object of the kettle of water was to provide water to put on the woodwork in case of danger. I certainly found that the woodwork could be heated, and I threw water on the woodwork when I thought the heating was taking place. When the trap door in the east level between the bottoms of the two shafts was opened, there was such a draught at No. 3 bottom that you could scarcely keep your lamp in. This draught had a considerable effect upon the furnace. We had strict orders to keep the doors shut. Alexander Thomson saw that Hunter and I attended to the furnace. On the day before the accident the fire was kept very big.

Why? - Because the air in the pit was very bad, and we were told to keep the fire extra large to increase the air current. Once or twice during the time I was employed at the bottom of the pit I damped down the fire a bit because I was afraid the woodwork would get too hot. Black damp had made its appearance in the mine, although not in the quantity to stop the whole work.

By Mr Guthrie - I had had charge of the fire for months and no accidents happened.

By Mr Comrie Thomson - But are you of opinion that the woodwork would have gone on fire if you had not used the water liberally? - Yes.

By Mr Guthrie - You had always plenty of water? - We had to carry it from No. 2 bottom. The kettle was not always filled with water; but we could have plenty of water for the carrying. Hunter attended to the fire when I was engaged at work with Alex Thomson.

By Mr Young - I threw the water on to the sides; and at no time did I ever attempt to put water on the wooden bars of the roof.

By Mr Atkinson - When the trap door on the level was open I could feel the extra draught. I always took care to get the door shut when I felt the extra draught.

A LATE INSPECTOR'S OPINION.

Alexander Condie, Gladstone Cottage, Comrie, in answer to Mr Young deponed - I was engaged as an inspector at the Kinneddar pits from September 1891 to February 1895, and had therefore left Kinneddar before he accident. There was plenty of air in the bottom of the down cast shaft; but in some parts of the mine it was not well directed. I remember sometime after I went to work at Kinneddar we had some little trouble with black damp. The black damp came from the west level. I sent the men home.

Mr Comrie Thomson - This will be entered in the report book.

Witness - It may not be. The air had cleared I remember by three o'clock; and I did not as a rule make any entry in the book until after three o'clock.

Mr Atkinson - But the fact that black damp had made its appearance ought to be entered in the book.

By Mr Young - A firelamp was in operation before he cube was built. I told Cooper, the underground manager, and Mr Alex Thomson that it was a mistake to build the cube so near the shaft.

What dangers did you anticipate? - That the whole thing would be set on fire. A great draught came from the splint seam. In reply to me John Cooper said that he thought it a mistake to put the cube so near; but he followed this up by saying it was only to be temporary. I also said to Cooper that it would be far better for hot air to strike the wood than perhaps the flames.

Mr Comrie Thomson - And what did Cooper say?

Witness - He swore.

Mr Comrie Thomson - Just leave out the swearing.

By Mr Young - I told Alex Thomson that I would not accept any responsibility for anything that might take place in connection with the cube. I told him of a case I knew of where a fire had occurred under similar circumstances. I have seen water thrown on the woodwork. The sides were nearer to the flames than any of the other wood work, and to me it was always apparent that the furnace was dangerous. Cooper evidently thought the cube dangerous, after it was in operation, for he asked me for God's sake to look after it. I mentioned my fears more than once to Cooper. I have put coal onto the cube, and have had to take coal off when I found that the flames were going too close to the sides.

By Mr Guthrie - I am not aware that any one in particular had charge of attending to the furnace during the day time. I have seen three or four different parties putting coal on the cube - Hunter, Connors, Cooper, and Thomson. I have also put on coals

myself. Connors and Hunter were always at the bottom, and gave the cube their attention, although I am not aware that they had special charge of the cube. I had other duties to attend to.

Did you see Connors and Hunter take more charge of the cube than Cooper or Thomson? - I did not know who had charge of it. I was not at the cube except at breakfast time, and at that time Thomson and Cooper were also there. I cannot speak as to what went on during the other hours of the day. For all I know the cube may have been in charge of Hunter and Connors. I believe it would be so because they were the bottomers. The only person who was present whose name I recollect, when I spoke to Cooper about the cube was Thomson, who is dead. I left the Fifeshire Main collieries in February 1895 for a better situation and got the favour of not requiring to work a notice.

Do you seriously say you considered that the cube was a source of danger? - I never thought anything else.

Why did you remain in the pit until February 1895 if you thought it in such a dangerous condition? - I did not consider the cube dangerous to life but only to property.

With care and proper precaution was the cube not safe enough? - I never considered it safe. I did not think any man would be injured. During the time I was there no accident occurred in connection with the cube.

By Mr Atkinson - The woodwork I thought likely to be set on fire by the cube was the slides. I did not anticipate that the crowns and cleading in the roof would be set on fire. The flame was directed right into the open shaft. There was a covering consisting of three cast iron plates on the cube. The firelamp was used all the time I was there. There was no covering on the firelamp but I never anticipated any trouble from it.

LOCKHART BLELLOCH'S SCRAMBLE FOR LIFE.

Lockhart Blelloch, miner, Fordell, deponed - I was a miner in the pit at the time of the accident. About 2.15 p.m. on the day of the accident I was at No. 3 pit bottom, when Alexander Thomson asked me to give him a hand to put out the fire. There was a great heat at the place coming from three fires. It seemed to me that the fire was in the packing above the bars. There were three spots where I saw the fire like three candles. There was about a couple of feet between each of them. They were right above the open fire. I formed no idea at the time as to what had caused the fire. Thomson and I at once threw some water on the woodwork. We could not make the water reach the place where the fire was, and all we did seemed to do no good. In about fifteen minutes Cooper came. We had by that time used most of the water in the kettle, and Cooper ordered us to fetch more water. Two boys brought some more water. Cooper left for a little and then came back with Calderwood. By that time the fire had increased to be like a big roaring furnace. The roof was all ablaze. Before Calderwood came Thomson and I had attempted to knock out the supports in order to

bring out the bars. We only managed to knock out one of the uprights. We then saw that our efforts to control the fire would be useless. I proceeded to leave the mine and met Calderwood just at the trap door between No. 2 and No. 3 pits. Thomas Sharp (who was killed) was with me. Calderwood told us to go and stop up the cross cuts, which is the only other passage in the Jersey seam leading to No. 3 pit. We went. I found a strong current of air coming from No. 2 in the direction of No. 3 pit. It was so strong that we could not keep our lamps in. We met Calderwood and we told him that we would need more assistance, and he sent for Frank Sharp. Then we started to put in the stopping. We had finished a portion of the stopping and had a screen cloth ready to put on when the air current changed. At that time smoke and dust came from No. 3 pit. We gave up the idea of proceeding with the stopping, and made for the bottom. We went along the level road to within three or four yards of the trap door, and we noticed flames on the roof. We had to go on our hands and knees and crawl along. When a little nearer the trap door Tom Sharp called out that he was chocking. We had no lights, and we crawled along until we came to where our coats were, and then we knew what direction to take. Up to then the two Sharps had been crawling behind me. I don't know what became of them afterwards. The first fresh air I got was at the bottom of No. 2 pit, which was the spot we had all been making for. I found Alex. Thomson there belling down the cage. He said he was roasted. He afterwards died. He and I were taken up. There were others went up, but I don't remember whom. The Sharps did not come up, and I explained where I thought they must go. Afterwards Calderwood, Cooper, and others went down.

By Mr Guthrie - I was not burned at the time the flame appeared, nor, so far as I know, were the Sharps. Up to the time I got to my coat Thomas Sharp was quite close to me. After that I don't know what happened to them. It was a good distance before I came to my coat that he called out to me he was chocking. I cannot say whether Thomson shut the gate completely or not. Neither he nor I had any light.

By Mr Atkinson - While we were working at the stopping, Calderwood came to us. While he was with us there was a slight reversal of the air current. On account of that we had to go down to the foot of the east heading. Smoke followed us. The air was very hot. We afterwards returned to the stopping. Calderwood went with us. That was about twenty minutes or so before the great rush of smoke and hot air came. Frank Sharp asked Calderwood if there was any danger working there, and Calderwood replied - "Yes, if the air reverses upon us". After the first smoke and hot air came I felt a little timorous, but not exactly afraid.

THE OPINION OF AN EXPERT.

Thomas Paterson, mining engineer, Glasgow, deponed - The fan has now, to a considerable extent superseded the cube which is usually employed in the case of shallow pits. Now, and in the case of new collieries, the ventilation fan is almost invariably adopted. The primary cost of a fan is much greater than that of a cube, but if the power of working the fan is got from the existing boilers the future expenses may not be so great as that of burning the quantity of coals a cube would require. The situation of the cube in this case was much too near the shaft for safety. There is a great danger in the use of a cube where there is woodwork near. The presence of a

supply of water satisfies me that the use of the cube was considered to be attended with danger. The kettle of water was insufficient provision to stop a fire once it had broken out. If the furnace had been some yards away from the shaft, it would have been just as good for ventilation purposes and a great deal safer. The risk of fire was greatly increased by the addition of an open fire, and I would not have allowed such a thing. I never knew of such a dangerous expedient being resorted to for ventilation. Being informed that the fire appeared in three places in the roof, I am of the opinion that it must have been ignited by the sparks or overheating or flame from the fire below. The fine dust in the cleading would be very easily ignited and the woodwork also. It was ridiculous to attempt to extinguish the fire by throwing pailfuls of water on it. The metals were so soft and brittle that the shaft required timbering to keep them in their places, and of course when the timbering was consumed the metals would come down. It would naturally follow that there would be a reversal of the air current, and this would jeopardise the lives of the men in the pit. When it was found that the fire had got a hold of the woodwork, the first thing that should have been done was to have withdrawn the men from the workings. The manager should then have tried to stop the fire by shutting the mouth of the downcast shaft and after that the burning shaft. That would have smothered the fire. I think that even if the stopping which was attempted to be erected near No. 3 pit had been completed it would not have prevented the feeding of the air courses from No. 1 pit, the stopping would have had no effect at all upon the fire.

By Mr Guthrie - I have never been down a pit when it was burning. I have never had anything to do with putting out a fire in a pit, nor examined a pit immediately after there had been a fire in it.

You have had no experience whatsoever in connection with fires in pits? - I was down the Barrwood Pit, Kilsyth, six months after a fire following upon an explosion. It was necessary to flood the pit before the fire was put out. The method adopted in each case depends upon the circumstances. I have seen cubes used as a permanent method of ventilation at a great many different collieries. I am not aware of cubes being used temporarily until the best situation for a fan is being ascertained. It is generally known from the beginning where the fan should be.

In the case of the Kinneddar pit the Jersey seam is 53 fathoms, and the splint seam 61 fathoms - is that a shallow pit? - Yes, comparatively shallow, and in a pit of these depths cubes can be employed safely if properly constructed and properly used.

If there was a timber roof above the cube would it not have been more dangerous to have had the cube further away from the shaft - if there were sparks was it not safer that they should get up the shaft than lodge about the woodwork? - Oh, yes.

Was it not safer then to have the cube near the lip of the shaft? - It should have been further back and arched. Any cubes that I have seen that were not arched had a hard sandstone roof above them. These were permanent cubes. I do not think that the cube at Kinneddar was safe even as a temporary arrangement and even although it was watched. The supply of water in the neighbourhood of the cube should have been under pressure. The longer the cube was there the more ignitable would be the timber

near it become. The method of attempting to erect a stopping was one that could not possibly have succeeded in putting out the fire because the burning shaft would have been fed with fresh air.

Assuming that measures were only taken while the communication between No. 2 and No. 3 was being cut off to close up the passages feeding No. 3, would that method not have succeeded? - If all the air courses had been closed up simultaneously, the fire would have been greatly diminished. It would have had the same effect as closing the mouths of the shafts.

Supposing the manager had taken steps to close up all the air courses, would you have lodged any objections? - Yes, I objected to the men being down the pit while the shaft was burning.

Is it your view that life should not be exposed to risk in an attempt to save property? - No; but I think the risk here was too great. There was a risk of the shaft collapsing at any moment after the fire had got hold of it, the air currents reversing, and the flames being thrown back upon the men.

Have you had any experience of a fall in the shaft causing a reversal of the current? - No; but from scientific knowledge I say that if a shaft collapsed the air must be reversed.

What reason was there to expect that the shaft would collapse? - It would collapse when the timber got burned.

Does the timber burn straight off? - Yes, where it has been previously dried up with continued heat.

That's been your experience, has it? - Common sense tells anyone that.

From your experience or common sense was this shaft likely to burn long before it would collapse? - Ten minutes.

Do you know that it took a great deal longer than ten minutes in this case? - It may have done. That is a matter on which people of skill will differ, and the manager was bound to act on his own judgement.

What would be the quickest method of putting out the fire? - The simultaneous closing of all the air currents would have a quicker effect on the fire than closing the mouths of the shafts. By adopting the latter method it would have been necessary to close No. 1, No. 2, and then No. 3.

How long would it have taken to do that? - With plenty of men and material it could have been done within an hour. I do not think there would have been much difficulty in closing No. 2, notwithstanding the pumping and winding machinery. The time it would take to close up the mouths of the mine would depend upon the energetic manner the work was gone about. If three or four hours elapsed before the mouths of

the shafts were closed, the time would be too long. When I spoke of closing the shafts within an hour, I meant a temporary closing.

By Mr Young - If a furnace is to be used at all, it ought to be well constructed and well situated. I never saw a furnace in operation under circumstances such as were present at Kinneddar - a wooden roof. It is usual to have the roof of the cube constructed of fire-brick. I don't know of any covering of iron plates. There would be a greater radiation of heat from an iron covering than of fire-brick.

By Mr Atkinson - The risk in the first place was to property, not to life. Had I been in the Kinneddar pit on the day of the accident, I think that there would have been present in my mind the risk, if the timbers were burned, of the material behind falling and causing a reversal of air current. I don't think that the miners would realise that risk. I have had no personal experience of a reversal of the air current being brought about by a fall of debris down the shaft. I have read of such accidents occurring, however.

THE EXPLORATIONS IN THE WRECKED SHAFT.

Robert Calderwood recalled, said in answer to Mr Guthrie, that the whole of the burnt pit had been explored since the date of the fire. The only fall that appears to have taken place in the shaft is a fall from a point about 20 fathoms above the Jersey seam. An extensive fall also took place from the surface. The explorations in the shaft have not thrown any additional light on the point as to how the air current came to be reversed. Some of the witnesses have spoken of the flames from the coal. I wish to explain that very little flame comes from our coal - it is almost like anthracite coal.

By Mr Young - Why is it there is no entry of black damp in the report book for the day previous to the accident? - The book is kept by the fireman.

THE CLOSE OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

This concludes the evidence, and Counsel agreed to furnish the Commissioner and the Assessor with short written statements bearing on the evidence adduced.

The Court then rose.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1895.

COAL MINING ON PRESTON ISLAND.

Proposed Extension by the Messrs Hutton.

Having floated the coal works of Middle Grange and Culross into a limited liability company under the title of the Culross Coal Company, Mr Hutton has now turned his attention to Preston Island, which lies about the middle of the Firth of Forth between Bo'ness and Culross. Coal was worked on the island by Sir Robert Preston nearly a century ago. Desirous evidently of imitating Sir George Bruce with his famous Culross moat - an erection which enabled Sir George to work the minerals in the harbour - Sir Robert conceived the idea of working the coal under Preston Island. Shafts were sunk, a pumping engine erected, workmen's houses put up, and fresh water conveyed from the shore in pipes. The mining operations were commenced on a large scale, but just in the heyday of prosperity an after-damp explosion occurred in the deepest shaft, and several miners lost their lives. Sir Robert was very much affected by the tragic occurrences, and after sinking £30,000 he abandoned the project. Sir Robert was left with ample means after the loss of £30,000, however, and the houses were turned into salt pans, several additions having been made in the shape of the chimneys, &c. The salt works proved more profitable to some people than the mining did to Sir Robert, and the industry was carried on for many years. Mr D. Beveridge, in his "Culross and Tulliallan," says that he can remember fifty years ago, when the saltmakers of the island were "regarded as a sort of pariah by the more civilised inhabitants of the adjoining shore," and he well remembers hearing it mentioned that the "pariahs" could not read. The original saltmaker ultimately quitted the island and was succeeded by another man who ventured on "brewing very gude drink" in addition to making salt. The difference between the whisky and salt "reek" was observed by the authorities, and they made a raid on the island one day to find that the smuggler had taken to his heels, having been warned of the probable descent of the exciseman and his army. This was the end of the Preston Island salt and whisky works, and from the date of the abandonment of the island the river has played out and in the three shafts which Sir Robert Preston sunk in his attempt to explore the minerals. Mr Hutton is taking means to prevent the sea flowing over the mouths of the shafts, and a pumping engine is being erected on the deepest shaft in the hope of cleaning out the water. The water out, the work of exploring will be begun. So far as we are concerned we can see no reason why all the minerals coming into the district should not be lying solid on the whole Valleyfield estate. If the seams are found to be lying in position on the Preston Island a shaft will doubtless be sunk on the shore, and the main shaft on the island will ultimately be used as the outlet. Meantime it looks as if Culross and district are once more to be the scene of mining activity.

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SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1895.

CROW-PIE NIGHT AT THE DUNFERMLINE POORHOUSE.

It is a good many years since Mr Reid of Dunduff established crow-pie night at the Dunfermline and West Fife Combination Poorhouse, and as often as the third week in May comes round as often do the inmates of the institution enjoy a dish which would make the teeth of a king water. Tuesday last was crow-pie night, and being the first treat to the inmates since the Parish Council was elected, a considerable number of Parish Councillors made it a point to be present. Among those who entered appearance were: - Ex-provost Walls, Parish Councillors T. Stewart, Inglis, Cairns, Shepherd, J. Brown, McHardie, and Peebles; and the Rev. Father Mullan, Mr J.S. Soutar, Clerk to the Parish Council; and Mr Meikle, Inspector, &c. Some of the Parish Councillors had never before entered the precincts of the institution, and they devoted about an hour to making an inspection of the building and doing a tour of the ground. The vexed problem of separation of old aged couples and the uniform were not raised, and the only thing that could be seen in the shape of "prize dogs" were some sketches of pretty little puppies which had been "given away with a pound of tea" or a magazine, and which occupied a prominent place in the reception room. All expressed the pleasure it gave them to notice the tidiness of the institution, the apparent comfort and the evident good feeling which subsisted between the governor, the matron, and the staff, and the old and young among the inmates. After ample justice had been done to the excellent supper, the genial ex-Provost Walls, who occupied the chair, referred at some length to the kindness of the Laird of Dunduff in providing an annual treat which the inmates enjoyed. He concluded by calling for three cheers for Mr Reid, and the response was an exceedingly hearty one. Songs were then rendered by ex-Provost Walls, Miss Moyes, Father Mullan, Parish Councillor Brown, and others, and Mr G. Brooks charmed his audience with a mandolin selection. After a brief interval Councillor Stewart contributed a reading, and Mr J.C. Craig and his choir who do much to cheer the hearts of the inmates in the course of a year followed with numerous musical selections. The following were among the contributors: - Miss Moyes, Miss B. Flockhart, Misses Grierson and Cooper, Messrs J.C. Craig, D. Howie, Young, Callum, and Swan. Miss Craig and Mr J.S. Soutar presided at the piano. Tobacco and snuff, a present from Mr Reid, were distributed during the course of the evening, and at the close a hearty vote of thanks was, on the motion of Mr McHardie, awarded all who had taken part in the programme. The inmates joined in heartily in "Auld Lang Syne," with which the proceedings were brought to a close.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1896.

THE HANDLOOM IN DUNFERMLINE.

The Co-operative Manufacturing Society's Dissolution.

A special meeting of the shareholders of Dunfermline Co-operative Manufacturing Society was held in the Co-operative Hall on Wednesday - Mr David Punler, the president, in the chair - for the purpose of considering the advisability of dissolving the society.

The Chairman explained that the management now found it impossible to cope with the competition of steam power. The prices had in recent years had been so much cut by Paisley and other steam power manufacturers, who paid special attention to goods of the same pattern as those turned out by the society, that the management found that little or nothing was left for the handloom weaver after the cost of material was paid. They had, therefore, no alternative but to wind up the society.

A resolution was accordingly unanimously adopted agreeing to dissolve the society, and the Chairman, and Messrs R. Macgregor (secretary), and D. Peebles (secretary of Dunfermline Co-operative Society), were appointed a committee to wind up the concern.

The society was formed in 1871 with a very small capital. One of the aims of the society was a particularly laudable one. It was noticed that the handlooms kept in operation by the proprietors of power-loom factories were being gradually reduced in number; and as old men, who had seen the light of other days, had little chance of procuring work in the large factories, it was thought that an effort might be made to provide congenial work for at least a few old hands. The society started operations with one loom; but before four years had elapsed they had 24 looms fully employed. With wonderful pluck and enterprise the management of the society adapted themselves to a new trade - bedcovers, &c. - after the demand for handloom linens had become meagre, but Paisley power-loom goods have gradually captured this trade, and during the past two years the society has not kept more than three or four looms going. Dividends of from 10 per cent to 15 per cent. were declared for the first ten years of the society's existence; but the profits gradually fell to 7½ per cent., and latterly a five per cent. dividend was declared. The balance sheet for the half-year ending 31st December, shows the assets of the society amounts to £1262 8s 11d. The share capital amounts to £876 16s 3d, the loan capital to £149 19s 5d., and the reserve fund to £216 1s 1d. Among a section of the shareholders there is a strong feeling that an effort should be made to direct the capital into another channel rather than distribute it. The difficulty is to fall upon a profitable channel, however. An outsider this week suggested a small steam-power factory with an increased capital; but the idea is not favourably entertained by many, if any, of the shareholders. A small

linoleum work has also been suggested on the plea that in Dunfermline there is much need for labour for the male sex. The linoleum proposal is a much more feasible one than the other, and the raising of more capital and the establishing of such a work are questions which the management of the dissolving society might at least put before the working men of the city. No harm could come from a meeting convened for the discussion of the subject.

Handloom Industry Dying Out - Looms For Firewood.

Mr David Punler, the president of the society which is about to suspend operations, has been connected with the handloom industry since 1832, and has thus passed through all the troubles of half-a-century ago attached to repeated reductions of the prices allowed the owners of looms, and the prices allowed to weavers, the terrible struggles of the transition period - from the handloom to steam - and the weary struggles which have had to be fought for an existence during the latter stages of decay. Mr Punler remembers well of the terrible depression in trade experienced in 1837-38. This was before the repeal of the Corn Laws, and the abnormal depression was directly traceable to the bad harvest. The winter was well advanced before the crops were gathered in, and on many farms the stooks were standing in snow. In Dunfermline upwards of 800 hands were thrown idle for most of the winter. Subscription to the amount of £1000 were collected for the relief of the distress - £400 of that total was spent in connection with a soup kitchen, and £600 was spent in giving employment on road repairing and other improvements. What added to the distress in the city was an influenza scourge. During 1837 there were no fewer than 493 interments in the Dunfermline Abbey Church-yard. Last year the deaths registered in the parish were 211, and the population is about double of the total of 1837. After many unsuccessful attempts by various parties to introduce steam power, Messrs Andrew Reid and his brother Henry succeeded in establishing the Dunfermline Linen Works in Pilmuir Street in 1849. St Leonards' Steam Works were opened in 1851, and in 1854 the handloom weavers of the burgh experienced the full force of the transition period - the handlooms tumbling down like a pack of cards - 800 looms were soon idle and 500 men were out of employment. Other steam power works followed St Leonards - Abbey Gardens in 1860; Bothwell Works 1865; Canmore Works 1866; Castleblair Works 1868; St Margaret's 1870; Caledonia 1874; Albany Works 1874; Victoria 1876; Messrs Cunningham & Co's Works have also steam power. The following table shows the number of people employed in connection with the handloom industry of the burgh in 1836 and the average wages earned: -

	Number	Weekly Wages
Weavers (men and boys)	3517	10s
Warpers, lapper, &c	150	15s
Winders, pirn fillers, &c	1100	4s
Yarn boilers - women	29	7s
Bleachers of yarn	35	7s
Bleachers of cloth	150	8/6d
Lappers in public lapping house	29	9/6
Designers	12	-

Pattern cutters	12	10s
Dyers	10	18s

5044

At no time since 1832, we are told, did good weavers earn more than from 10s to 12s per week all the year round. An extra 5s was made now and again off harnesses, but it took all this to bring the average to the point stated.

In 1837 there were 3000 handlooms going in the burgh; a few years ago about 100 handlooms were in operation; to-day there are not more than 20 going. Many of the looms stopped within the recent years have been sold for firewood.

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KELTY, OAKFIELD, AND CANTSDAM.

Although trade is unprecedentedly dull, the mining villages of Kelty, Oakfield, and Cantsdam show signs of prosperity. During the past three years the house accommodation has been almost doubled, and recognising the necessity for an increased supply of good water and improved drainage, the Dunfermline District Committee of the Fife County Council are pushing forward water and drainage schemes of considerable dimensions. Opposition has been threatened to the water scheme from parties interested in the tributaries of the Leven; but the hope is expressed that the opposition will be withdrawn, and that a bill for carrying through the proposed works will be passed without the expense of a parliamentary fight. The drainage extension scheme will be proceeded with without delay, and once the pipe extension proposals are completed, an irrigation scheme will be considered. In consequence of the determination of the late Earl of Moray not to afford

Facilities For Feuing,

The villages of Kelty, Oakfield, and Cantsdam straggle along the west side of the public highway for a distance of about 1½ mile. The scattered condition of the houses make draining difficult, and the distribution of water is a much more expensive job than is the case in a compact village of 3000 inhabitants which may cover a comparatively small area. The hope is entertained, however, that the present Earl of Moray will rescind the resolution of his predecessor, and grant every possible facility for feuing for workmen's houses. The great Aitken pit is being sunk for the purpose of working the Earl's minerals, and it is only natural to assume that if the work of mineral development is to be carried out by miners, the miners must have house accommodation. To most people it would seem strange that the late Earl of Moray did not recognise the force of this contention.

Opening of the U.P. Church.

Among the most imposing of the new buildings erected and in the course of erection are the three new churches - the Free, U.P., and the Established. The Free and the Established Churches will, it is expected, be completed in the course of the summer, and such progress had recently been made with the building erected for the recently formed U.P. congregation that on Thursday the building was formally thrown open for worship by the Rev. Dr. Drummond of Glasgow. The congregation starts with a membership of 93 and a considerable number of adherents, and the Home Mission Committee of Dunfermline and Kinross Presbytery and the congregation have in the erection of the building gone upon the wise principal of aiming only at a place of worship which they would be able to open almost free of debt. The structure has been erected from plans prepared by Messrs Methven & Sons, architects, Alloa, and the

impression which the building at once conveys is that the architects have expended the £750, which the structure is to cost, to the best possible advantage. The building is constructed of bricks, with a stone front, and sitting accommodation is provided for 350 people. The heating and lighting are all that could be desired, and altogether the church promises to be extremely comfortable. With the grant made by the Home Mission Board the congregation have opened the church with a debt of less than £60. The management are confident that this debt will be wiped off at no distant date. Meantime Mr H.C. Neville, Glasgow, has been placed in charge of the work of the congregation; but it is not improbable that a call will soon be placed in the hands of a minister, and the charge fully equipped. The Rev. Dr. Drummond, at the opening ceremony, preached an excellent sermon from John iv., 36, to a large congregation. Christ's servants, he said, did well to fortify themselves for the battle of life, and he congratulated the congregation on the zeal they were displaying in the Kelty district.

A Congregational Soiree

was held in the church in the evening - the Rev. James Gilmour, Cowdenbeath, presiding. After a service of tea and cake,

The Chairman

intimated apologies for absence from Mr Young (Home Mission Secretary), the moderator of the Presbytery, and others. He proceeded to congratulate the United Presbyterians of Kelty on having a church of their own. It was a good plan to have begun in a humble way. He mentioned that the contracts for the building of the church were not opened until the middle of May, so that the work of erection had been completed within eight months. The church was not opened entirely free of debt, but before the end of many weeks it was anticipated that there would not be more than £50 or £60 of debt. As the congregation grew so would the finances. (Applause.)

The Rev. T.E. Miller, Dunfermline was the next speaker. He thought that Kelty had a special claim for a U.P. Church, as they were within four miles of Gairney Bridge, where the U.P. Church was formed. He hoped the spirit of unity would prevail in the congregation and that prosperity would be attained. (Applause.)

The Rev. Mr Brown, Lochgelly, who was introduced as the father of the Dunfermline and Kinross Presbytery, and also of the Kelty congregation, said that Mr Gilmour had had more to do in connection with the erection of the new church than any other member of the Presbytery. The building was on the border line of the two counties, but there was no spirit of rivalry as they realised that there was ample room for them all. (Applause.) When Cowdenbeath U.P. was formed the Lochgelly session gave them a loan of communion vessels, and the session now had much pleasure in asking the Kelty congregation to keep these until some one presented them with better ones. (Applause.)

The Rev. Mr Ruthven, Kinross, said that Kelty people were highly favoured with the erection of three churches, but the members of the U.P. congregation were particularly fortunate

The Rev. Mr Miller, Milnathort, Mr Wilson, Kelty, and Mr R. Young, evangelist, also addressed the meeting.

During the evening a musical programme was gone through by the choir under the conductorship of Mr David Muir. Solos were also sung by Miss Jane Paul and Mr Beveridge, Cowdenbeath. Mr Davidson, Cowdenbeath, providing piano accompaniments.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1896.

INVERKEITHING NOTES.

VISIT OF EDINBURGH ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION

Interesting Reminiscences

Edinburgh Architectural Association, to the number of thirty, under the leadership of Mr Henry F. Kerr, A.R.J., B.A., visited the ancient burgh of Inverkeithing and Rosyth on Saturday. The company could not have been in better hands than those of Mr Kerr. The historical sights brought under the notice of the party during the course of the day were particularly interesting. We are indebted to Mr Kerr for the following excerpts from the notes of the outing prepared for the association: - Inverkeithing was at one time

The Residence of Royalty,

and many of the noble gentry. David I. is said to have had a minor palace there, but there does not appear to be any positive evidence of its site. Queen Annabella, the beautiful consort of King Robert III., lived and died there. Her palace, and probably some of the actual rooms she occupied, are still visible; at least there are buildings of her date on or about the spot identified with her residence. Then the Earl of Rosberrie -, the first Earl - lived in the house now known as Rosebery House, which contains one very interesting 17th century gable, and there are remains in the basement of still earlier work in the block facing the road. A very old residenter is responsible for the news that the Marquis of Tweeddale lived in the house opposite the Church Tower. The old family of Henderson of Fordell lived in, and probably built, towards the close of the 17th century, the large turreted house opposite the church, which contains on the first floor, above where the old fire-place was, a very well preserved shield with Charles II.'s initials upon it. The Henderson's were hereditary provosts and sheriffs of Inverkeithing, and appear always to have taken a great amount of interest in the burgh. Perhaps

The Best Known Man

who was born here was Admiral Sir Samuel Greig, although his name has been scoffed at by one chronicler. He was born in 1735, and served for several years in the British Navy, but before 1770 he joined the Russian flag, and by means of true Scottish perseverance and faithfulness, he rapidly rose to be appointed Admiral. Further, after brilliant service, he was appointed Admiral in Chief, and in that capacity he was the means of raising Russia to some strength as a naval power. The Czar showered honours upon him, and presented him an estate in Lwonia. His son was also an admiral in the Czar's service. The house that Greig lived in as a boy is

probably the one opposite the Town-house with the square gabled tower. Over the entrance door is, in a small tablet, the inscription - "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that built it1617."

Above the inscription are the letters IT BT, with a plain shield between them. It is not known to whom these letters refer - the house in 1793 belonged to William Greig, son of Charles Greig, shipmaster in Inverkeithing. The upper storey of this house was added in modern days. The tablet above one of the old windows contains the pretty Scottish proverb - "Care, but care not inordinarily, for all was others, and others it shall be." (Spelling modernised) Coming to modern days, the Rev. Ebenezer Brown - not a native, however - ministered in the church close to the station. He must have been a man of exceptional talents when Lord Jeffrey exclaimed that "he had never heard such words." and Lord Brougham that "he was the greatest orator he had ever heard."

The Oldest Charter

extant, is that presented by King William, the Lion, comprising rights and privileges contained in the previous charter granted by Alexander I., so that this township is carried back as a Royal Burgh to the first half of the 12th century. In James III.'s reign (1478) an Act of Parliament was passed to the effect that the convention of Royal Burghs should meet annually at Inverkeithing. Unfortunately all records of these meeting have been lost, and although some persons deny that it ever met at Inverkeithing, considering the very incomplete condition of the records of the convention as now existing, there are certainly plenty of vacant years between 1487 and 1552 for some meetings to have taken place at Inverkeithing. The site of the meeting place is pointed out as that now occupied as the branch office of the Clydesdale Bank. The old building removed was one of very considerable architectural interest, and it is to be regretted that no drawings were made of it previous to its demolition. It figures in two sketches in Messrs McGibbon and Ross's book, and Miss Pringle, postmistress, has some private photographs, showing the Gala Tower as its name was. From tablets built into the back wall of the bank, it was evidently built in 1612 by Harie Kinglassie. An interesting inscription reads, "God blis Harie Kinglassie and Bessie Brown, their posterity, and all their friends."

The Town House

as is borne out by the Council minutes of 15th March 1770, was rebuilt that year. The Bell Steeple is of somewhat earlier date. The old chairs, the Charter chest, and halberts, and the ell wand, just unearthed by Mr Livingstone, burgh officer, were all subjected to particular notice. The Market Cross which has been recreated in its new position opposite the Town House was much admired. The arms upon the cap were pointed out as probably those of Robert III. Robert III. and Annabella Drummond, the Earl of Douglas, and the Duke of Rothsay. As the Duke of Rothsay married in 1398 a daughter of the Earl of Douglas, it has been assumed that this cross was made a gift to the town to commemorate this event. Above the cross is a sundial surmounted by a unicorn. It is noteworthy that when the cross was re-erected, the sundial was not justly set, it being four hours in advance of the clock.

The Old Church

of Inverkeithing was the most important place visited. Its antiquity still further attests the hoary age of the burgh. Of its foundation there is no record, but at a very early date in the reign of Malcolm IV. (1153-65) it is mentioned that the patronage of the church of St Peter at Inverkeithing was presented to the monastery of Dunfermline. Looking at the present remains one would say that of this date not one item is existent; but although there are, it is true, next to nothing remains of the Norman date, there is enough to warrant the belief that it is possible to trace the plan and the section of the original Norman church. Mr Kerr when examining the church and records regarding its construction, found evidence that a choir had been in existence in 1330, for the vicar applied to the Abbey of Dunfermline for funds to decorate and repair it. No remains of an old choir now exist, but to the east and adjoining the church is an enclosure for burial purposes (and containing the oldest grave slab in the precincts, viz., of date 1606), and this is probably in the main built on the old foundation of the Norman choir and apse. Mr Kerr showed on a diagram how he had conjectured this to be the case. Next there is no record of any nave later than Norman times and earlier than Reformation date, but seeing that there was a late 14th century tower there was the probability that there was a nave of that period also. In order to clear up this a close examination was made of the tower wall within the roof, and underneath the present ceiling line and behind the strapping of the wall, the weathering of an old roof was discovered. The slope of this was carefully taken, together with its position on the tower wall, with the result that when put down on paper it proved to be not the slope of a 14th century roof but of a 12th century one, and this from the outlines of the choir as mentioned, a plan and section of the original Norman church has been evolved. The font, richly sculptured with angels and shields, was also the centre of a good deal of attention. Mr Balfour Paul, the Lions King-at-Arms, who was with the party, took rubbings of the Arms, and we may hope to have from him a more reliable history of the font's origin than has yet been made. It certainly is of much later date than Robert III's reign as is currently supposed to be its age. The 16th century is much more its proper date. The beautiful bell, with the inscription "solī gloria deo Michael Burgherhury's facit anno 1641," and the silver communion cups (1641) were much admired. The party proceeded on foot across the hills to

Rosyth Castle,

having on the way an extremely clear view of the ancient city of Dunfermline. The barony of Rosyth was purchased in 1435 by Sir David Stuart, a connection of the Royal House of Stuart, and it was most probably shortly after this that the fine keep and its enclosing walls were erected. This Sir David Stuart was a patron of learning. It was he who by his encouragement induced Walter Bower, the Abbot of Inchcolm, to continue and complete to the end of James I.'s reign the well known and much valued "Scotochronicon" of Fordun. In 1561, the year of the arrival of Queen Mary in Scotland, it was most probably that the courtyard was added to the keep, and as expressing this coincidence and commemorating the coming of the Stuart Queen, the panels over the latter doorway were sculptured. The under panel is quite illegible, but

the upper one contains the Royal Arms surrounded by branches of thistles, underneath is a crouching unicorn with a crown round its neck, over the shield the letter M.R. each surmounted by a crown, and above all the date 1561. The vicissitudes of the castle were traced by Mr Kerr, and thereafter the party went through the ruins. On the motion of Dr Rowand Anderson (the president), Lord Hopetoun and the ladies and gentlemen who had allowed the party access to their properties were cordially thanked, and also the leader for his share in making the excursion one of great enjoyment.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1896.

THE MINERS

The Years Mining Fatalities.

The summarised statistics of fatal accidents in mines throughout the United Kingdom during the past year, just issued by the Under Secretary of State, show a decrease of 94 in the number of deaths compared with the previous year. They, however, record an increase of 46 in the number of accidents attended by fatal results. The totals for the two years are: - 1894, fatal accidents 813, number of lives lost 1127; 1895, fatal accidents 859, number of lives lost 1033. The greatest number of fatalities is, as usual, due to falls of sides and roof. There were 401 accidents of this kind last year, resulting in the loss of 418 lives. The previous year 444 lives were lost from this cause, and the decrease may be taken as evidence of increasing care in those operations connected with the actual getting of the coal, in which accidents are to a large extent preventable by due precautions. The number of fatal accidents resulting from explosions of fire-damp or coal dust is again satisfactorily small, being 20 as compared with 22 last year, while the number of lives lost is in most gratifying contrast with 1894, when 317 men were killed, as against 55 last year. On the other hand, miscellaneous underground accidents show a large increase. In 1894 there were 176 of the accidents, resulting in 177 deaths. Last year the number mounted up to 241, and the number of lives lost to 344. The most serious accident was that in which 77 lives were lost by an eruption of water in one of the mines of the North Staffordshire district. Accidents on the surface met a total of 117 last year, with the loss of 119 lives, as compared with 112 accidents and 112 lives lost in 1894. Accidents in shafts numbered 80 with 97 lives lost last year, as against 69 accidents and 77 deaths in 1894. The number of accidents in metalliferous mines last year was 45, with 53 lives lost, as compared with 39 and 43 respectively in 1894

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SATURDAY, JULY 4, 1896.

THE MINES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

A summary of statistics relating to the mines of the United Kingdom has just been published for the year 1895. The publication shows that the number of persons employed in and about the mines of the United Kingdom in 1895 was 733,657, of whom 700,284 worked at the 3512 mines under the Coal Mines Act, and 33,373 at the 724 mines under the Metalliferous Mines Act. The trade throughout the country has been very much depressed during the year, and in almost every county in the kingdom people have turned their backs on the mines and taken to other trades, with the result that, compared with 1894, there is a decrease of 4956 persons employed at mines under the Coal Mines Act, and a decrease of 484 persons at pits under the Metalliferous Mines Act. Despite the reduction in the army of workers and the short time worked at many of the pits because of the dull trade, 1895 stands as a record year for output. The total output of minerals at mines under the Coal Mines Act was 201,738,351 tons, of which 189,652,562 tons were coal, 2,314,983 tons of fire-clay, 7,231,835 ironstone, 2,216,865 oil shale, and 292,106 sundry minerals. Adding 8800 tons from open quarries, the output of coal was 189,661,362 tons, which exceeds by 1,383,837 tons the highest output hitherto recorded. One gratifying feature in connection with the increased output is the fact that it did not bring about any increase in the number of fatal accidents. There were 868 separate fatal accidents, causing 1042 deaths, at the Mines under the Coal Mines Act. Compared with 1894 there is a decrease of 85 in the number of deaths. The following table shows the number of persons employed, and the quantity of minerals raised, in each of the inspection districts in the United Kingdom: -

	Persons Employed	Tons Raised
East of Scotland	54,399	18,988,524
West of Scotland	39,657	13,620,367
Newcastle	70,056	20,005,600
Durham	79,192	27,525,371
Manchester	39,455	10,143,211
Yorkshire & Lincolnshire	88,879	23,319,486
Ireland	955	130,386
Liverpool	57,448	14,905,646
Midlands	79,999	21,643,917

North Staffordshire	24,723	7,030,084
South do	26,715	8,953,123
South-Western District	44,872	10,893,010
South Wales District	93,634	24,579,526
	700,284	201,738,351

In the county of Clackmannan there were 1103 persons employed underground and 226 above ground, giving a total of 1329 persons. In Fife there were 10,153 employed below ground and 2365 above ground - a total of 12,518. In Clackmannan there were 72 persons between 12 and 16 years of age and 1031 persons above 16 years of age employed below ground. The following were the statistics for Fife: - 974 male persons between 12 and 16 years of age and 9179 persons above 16 years of age employed below ground. Above ground in Fife 11 males were employed between 12 and 16 years of age, 80 males and 111 females between 13 and 16 years of age, and 1853 males and 310 females above 16 years of age. The death rate from all cases above and below ground per 100 persons employed in the Eastern District of Scotland was 1.599. In the West of Scotland District it was 1.967; In Northumberland, 1.056; in Durham, 1.036; in Yorkshire, 1.026; in Manchester, 1.592; in the Midlands, .736; in North Staffordshire, 4.652; in South Staffordshire, 1.535; and South Wales, 2.040. It will be noticed that the slaughter is greatest in North Staffordshire, and it is interesting to point out that all the deaths were attributed to the accidents common to every mine - roof falls and other contingencies. Not a single life was lost by fire-damp explosions. The average death rate over England, Scotland, and Ireland was 1.488, as against 1.598 for the previous year - 1894. In the East of Scotland 4.582 lives were lost for every 100,000 tons of minerals raised; and the West District of Scotland the figures worked out 5.727 lives for every 100,000 tons. In Newcastle the rate for every 100,000 tons was 3.699; in Durham, 3.417; in Cleveland, 1.702; in Yorkshire, 3.924; and in Ireland the startling total is reached of 46.017 deaths for every 100,000 tons of minerals raised. North Staffordshire stands high, 16.358, and South Wales works out a total of 7.771.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1896.

DUNFERMLINE IN THE OLDEN TIME.

THE CRUSADE AGAINST POOR OLD WOMEN.

During the seventeenth century trials and executions for witchcraft were exceedingly common in Scotland. The Burghs of Dunfermline, Culross, and Inverkeithing were no exception to the rule; and the Kirk-Session records and Town Council minutes show that the minds of the members of those bodies were often exercised over the occult art. The village of Torryburn was credited with being the headquarters of the witch fraternity, and the watchers of the three burghs were continually on the prowl in the hope of being able to lay some of the village witches by the heels while persuing their "calling" in the burghs. The first record we have of the doings of the Dunfermline witch dates as far back as 1591. This witch is credited with having "extensive renown," and with having helped to "raise the terrible storm at sea on the return of King James VI. from his matrimonial expedition from Denmark to Leith." This poor witch was tried on June 19th, 1591, and the accusation brought against her was that she consulted a woman in Dunfermline on the question of how to obtain the love of the woman's husband. A writer, under date 1627, states that in that year "The Wast o' Fife, specially Dunfermline and Torryburn, began to be infested be witches and warlocks." Between this date and 1643 the witches were alleged to have increased enormously in numbers, and in the hope of exterminating the dangerous pack, a severe policy of prosecution was entered on. In February 1643, for instance, the Ecclesiastical authorities of Culross thought it necessary to provide accommodation in the church steeple for the anticipated overflow of prisoners from the Tollbooth who were charged with sorcery. Mr Beveridge, the historian of Culross, tells us that in the "History of the Troubles in Scotland and England," 1625 - 1645, the following entry occurs: -

1643 - "About this time many witches are taken in Anstruther, Dysart, Culros, Sanct Andrais, and sundrie uther pairties in the coast syde of Fife. They maid strange confessions, and were bryant to the death." The Culross witches were as a rule sent to Edinburgh to undergo capital punishment. In Dunfermline the exterminating work was taken up with a terrible vigour in 1643. In April of that year no fewer than six poor, miserable creatures were dragged from their respective homes and burnt to death at the Witch Loan, and two others were allowed to die in prison.

Dr Henderson, in his "Annals of Dunfermline," thus describes the witch-burning year in Dunfermline: -

"This was a great witch-catching and witch burning year in Dunfermline. A staff of officials called "witch-watchers" and "witch-catchers," had been appointed early in 1643 to seize and put in ward (prison) all reputed witches, in order that they might be

tried for their "horrid and abominable crime of witchcraft". Accordingly, "a great many old shrivelled-up women, with woe-begone countenances, were warded, and if any of them used the long staff in walking, so much the better for the catchers."

In Dunfermline Register of Deaths, notice is taken of the poor, innocent unfortunates. During the months of May, July, and August, it seems no less than six poor women were burnt for being reputed witches. Their names were Grissel Morris, Margaret Brand, Katherine Elder, Agnes Kirk, Margaret Donaldson and Isobel Millar.

These victims, having been tried and condemned to be burnt, were accordingly carted to the loan (witch loan), and being placed in the middle of a pile of wood, with feet and legs tied, the pile was set on fire, their bodies were soon consumed, and it is to be hoped, that their better part received that mercy which had been denied them on earth.

In the "Loan" many criminals in the olden time suffered. At the foot of "the loan" near where the railway bridge crosses the road, there was the institution of "the witches' dub". Sometimes an old frail woman was thrown into it. If she sank, and was drowned, then it was supposed that "judgement had found her out;" if she swam on the surface, which by the bulk of her clothing she might sometimes do, then it was judged that there was something "no cannie aboot her," and on some pretence the victim got to the flames at last. Determined not to lose their victim, they appear to have acted upon the principle of "Heads I win; tails you lose!" Ascending the loan (the witch-loan), and about 100 yards from the "witch-dub", and on the east side of the loan road, there was a small knowe on which the witches suffered, and still further up the loan stood "the gallows" where executions were done.

The names of the victims who died in ward were Jonett Fentoun, and Isobell Marr. In the same Register of Deaths their fate is thus recorded: - "The 20th day, June 1643, Jonett Fentoun the witch, died miserably in ward (in prison) and wes brot to the witch knowe, being trailed and carted yrto and castin into a hole yr withoot a kist" (a coffin). Being brought out of prison, "the superstitious bigots" were probably allowed to trail her along the streets to the hole at witch knowe. Finding that a cart at hand would be more convenient for their work, she was thrown into it, and carted to "the hole". Again: - "The 17th day of Augt, 1643. Isobell Marr, being delaittit (accused) be the rest of her nyt bor (neighbours) witches for a witch, and being detained yrfre in the laiche thieves hole, shoe hangit hersel and was cairyed to the witches knowe and yerdit."

How much the church soiled its fingers with the terrible work will be apparent from the following, which we quote from the Kirk-Session records: - "Given to one James broun in the ferrie 30s, and to four watchers of the witch Margaret Donald, for five days and five nights, two of them ey being on the watch at their severall turns to ilk of them for ilk day and ilk ny; total VI.lbs." Notwithstanding the repressive measures adopted by the ministers, ruling elders and Magistrates of Dunfermline, the "sin of witch-craft" flourished, and in 1649, the year in which Charles I., was executed, the Presbytery of Dunfermline presented "a supplication" to Parliament, praying that a Justice shall attend on the Presbytery for holding Justice Courts, or to grant a "standing commissione of gentlemen" for dealing with witches. The "supplication"

begins thus: - "We the Moderator, reverent brithren, and ruling elders of the Presbyterie of Dunfermline and more particularlie the parishes Innerkeithin and Dalgetie; That whereas it pleaseth the Lord for his own glorie and the good of his charge daile more and more to discover that among us the works of darkness and the seurvants of that prince."

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1896.

DUNFERMLINE IN THE OLDEN TIME.

THE CRUSADE AGAINST POOR OLD WOMEN.

The crusade adopted in 1643 against the poor old women who were alleged to be witches, did not bring an end to witchcraft, and in 1649 we find that the minds of Ecclesiastical and Civil Authorities were much exercised over the "sin of witchcraft" in Dunfermline and district. The following is a copy of an endorsed "Supplication of the Presbytery of Dunfermline for the Parliament".: -

Vnto the Rycht Honourabill the Estates of Parliament, presently convenit at Edinburgh, humbly supplicatis -

We, the moderator, reuerant breithren, and rueling elders of the Presbyterie of Dunfermlane, and more particularie the parishes Innerkeithin and Dalgetie; That whereas it pleaseth the Lord for his own glorie, and the good of his churge, dailie more and more to discover among us the work of darkness and the seurvatis of that prince who rewles in the childrene of disobedience, whereof the most part are so depauperit, that they have nothing to intertain themselves in prison, espeacially in these tymes of dearth, nor to enterteine men to attend in seeking (and paying) dailie commissions; Therefore wee humbly supplicat your L. that yee will be pleasit ather to command ane of the justice deputis to attend in the foresaid presbyterie and parishes above written, ffor holding of justice courtis, and putting to the tryell of ane assyne such as are or shall be found gwiltie of the sinne of witchcraft, as they shall be desyrit, or to graunt ane standing commissone of gentlemen as your L. shall judge....the withine..... parishes therof.... effect forsaid especialle.... ane overture of the Generall Assemblie in anno jm. ve. fowrtie thrie (Jm. vic. fowrtie thrie) 1643; That standing commissionis gratis, lest throu the want of mone the worke, which the Lord hes so miraculuslie begunne, and so wislie heirtfore carried on, perish in or hand.

And your Lo gracwas answer wee humbly expect.

Mr George Colding, Moderator,
 In name of the Brethren.

A fair idea of the form this "sin of witchcraft" took may be had from the following minute-entry of the prayer of Marion Cunnyngame which appears in the Kirk-Session records: - 7th May; This day comperit marion Cunnyngame, who, the last day of April, 1650, gave in a complaint against Jonet huton for calling her witche and banisht theef, which complaint was not acceptit nor heard, because she did not consign her money for proving the same. But the said Jonet huton appearand the said day and

hearing the cause for which she was cited, denyit yt she callit her a witche but affirmit yt the said marion said over a prayer ilk nyt quhen she wente to hir bed whitch was not lawful, for the whitch she was angrie and reproved hir, they be dwelling in one hous; whitch prayer the said Jonet being desyrit to repeat it, affirmed yt she had bot a part yrof whitch she said over as follows, viz.; "Out throw toothe and out throw tongue, out throw liver and out throw tongue, and out throw halie harn pan, I drank of this blood instead of wine; thou shalt have mutifire all thy dayes syne, the bitter and the baneshaw and manie euil yt no man knowes." Upon the whitch said marion being askit, denyit the same altogidder. Bot it was affirmed be the said Jonet, as also John Colycare, talyoor, that some of her nytboors, who has oftymes heard the said marion say ouer the same, can testifie yrof as well as she. Therefore it was referrit to the said John and anie uythers of the session to try the same, and to get a copy yroff fra them against this day, at whitch tyme the said marion was ordaint to be present also; This day, 7 of May, 1650, David Lindsay of Cavill gave in a copy of ye said marion Cunnyngname's prayer, repeated and said ouer to him be herself, as follows: - "The day id fryday, I shall fast quhill I may; to hear the knell of christ is bell, the lord god on his chappell stood, and his 12 apostles good. In came Drightine dear lord of Almightyne; say man or I adie sweet st marie, qt is yon fire, so light, so bright, so far furthe fra me; it is my dear sone Jesus, he is naild to the tre; he is naild weill, for he is naild throw wynegare, throw toothe and throw tongue, throw hail harn pan." Upon the whitch the said marion being posed, confest and also repeatit the said prayer before the Session; the qly day the said John Colyeare gave in ane uthir copie, witche agreed word by word with that whitch was repeated by Jonet huton, and whitch then the said marion denyit altogedder. Now, she has been posed yrupon, she confest this following, viz - "Out throw toothe and out throw tongue, and out throw the haile harn pan", but denyit, be the death she must go to, the words following: - "I drank of his blood, instead of wyne; thou shalt have mutifire all thy days syne; the bitter and baneshaw, and manic evil yt na man knawes."

Neither the "supplication" of the Presbytery nor the "prayer" of the witch requires comment. Dr Henderson is not too strong when he writes that it is "lamentable to find such trifling" on the part of Reverend Courts in the year 1650. There is comparatively little in the records anent the witches during the next quarter of a century; but it is apparent that the harmless old bodies figured more prominently in the minds of the clergy than the Sunday sermons did. We are told, for instance, that in 1667 "ye whole bodie of ye scesione, especalie of the Dunferling and Torieburne" were caused great "alarme" by witches and warlocks. An old MS. note, bearing the date 1679, mentions that notwithstanding "all droonin' and burning of witches that hae taen place in Dunferling, Inverkeithing, and Torrieburn, during this long space past they did not decrease, but are as common and horribly at this work as ever." Despite this pronouncement the persecution from this date seems to have been relaxed a little, and the drownings and burnings became less frequent. The witch dub at the foot of the Witch Loan was to a great extent filled up in 1791, and some years afterwards the people had so much recovered from the witch scare that the filling up of the "black hole" was completed. The persecution of poor people alleged to be witches forms the blackest pages in the history of the city.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL*SATURDAY, JULY 4, 1896.****THE POLICE FORCES OF THE "KINGDOM".******DUNFERMLINE BURGH.******The Annual Inspection.***

Captain D. Monro, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, visited Dunfermline on Monday, and inspected the police force of the burgh. The inspection of the force took place in the Burgh Court Room, and among those present were Bailies Scobie, Marshall, Davidson, and Rolland, and Mr W. Simpson, town-clerk. There was

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1896.

DUNFERMLINE IN THE OLDEN TIME.

(BY AN OLD CITIZEN.)

No 1

On looking back and taking a glimpse of bygone days, one is greatly struck with the contrast there is between then and now, between the old and the new order of things. Every half century or so now is bringing with it far greater changes than a century or two did long ago. But it is an undoubted fact that "the tendency of our modern civilisation is to obliterate natural differences in character, temperament, and modes of expression, to repress individualism, and reduce men and women to one dead level". On looking around us on every side now we look in vain for such as those who long ago were regarded as "characters", or were distinguished in some ways from their fellows. But there are differences still to be seen, no doubt, but they are now-a-days repressed somewhat, and not so marked as in bygone times. Where is the working man now-a-days, enthusiastic enough to think of trudging a distance of twenty miles on foot to see a new tulip as was done at the time of the tulip craze long ago, or to walk from Kinross to Dunfermline every Sunday for years, to worship in the Dunfermline Abbey Church? In the olden days - sixty-five or seventy years ago - there were in Dunfermline a considerable number of the inhabitants deemed "men of weicht", dour, sensible men, slow of speech many of them, but not afraid to speak their minds freely when honest speech was required and necessary. If we could get a glimpse of them now - the leading men of the Dunfermline of other days - clad in their quaint old fashioned hodden gray, with knee breeches, and with silver buckles on their shoes, we would be surprised! There they were to be seen leisurely daunderin' about, and soberly as becomes elderly men, never in a hurry and never idle, and ever ready to reprove or exhort when necessary. Smoking was not then nearly as prevalent as snuffing, the later being almost universal, hence the phrase - "Rather than be hurried wi' a snuff, I would rather want it". When two cronies met, their snuff mulls and snuff spoons were exchanged, and a leisurely crack over the news of the day was entered into. People took things more leisurely long ago, and did with far less talking at civic meetings than is indulged in now-a-days. As an instance of this it may be recorded that a Dunfermline Town Councillor was sent for to come at once to the Town House to attend to some urgent public business, and the worthy councillors reply to the messenger was "Tell them that I'll come as soon as I get my web dressed." In those days any important municipal matters were often settled at the counter or in the back shops of the Provost or Bailies who happened to be shopkeepers at that time. Justice was administered frequently in this off hand manner, and persons sent to prison, and no proper record kept of the transactions. It has been told that one of the old Magistrates who was a little puzzled about a certain case that came under his cegnizan, finished up the matter by saying - "Weel, a' the evidence is no very clear, an' sae we'll just mak' the fine a' the less". On a another similar occasion a worthy

Magistrate said, "We'll let ye aff this time, but if youre no in a scrape i' the noo, I doot ye'll no be lang to bein' intae anes". How the times have changed since those days! Our modern municipal and parliamentary rulers have gone away on an entirely different tack, to use a sea phrase. Many of them seem to engage in endless talk and chatter at our School Board meetings, Town Council meetings, and at the meetings in Parliament. In the old times there were rarely any newspapers, and newspaper reporters were never known or heard of. The old worthies had then no earthly inducement to indulge in the endless harangues and chatter so common in our times. The fear or favour of the reporter was never before their eyes and so the routine of business was often gone through in a most primitive and perfunctory manner. Carole has said with much truth that "it is sad to see two of the greatest nations on earth, viz. - the English and the American - now going to wind and tongue!"

NICKNAMES.

The habit of nicknaming was very general long ago. Everyone who was anybody bore a nickname. This habit still lingers among us, for do we not speak of an American as Brother Jonathan, of an Englishman as John Bull, of a Scotsman as Sawney, of a Liverpool man as Dickey Sam of a Londener as a Cockney, &c., &c.? - Many of the nicknames given to persons originated in school-boy days. If anyone had a peculiarity in speech or gait, or a deformity of body, the circumstances was, unfortunately, sometimes taken advantage of to give a nickname in keeping with that peculiarity. For example, a small boy made a slip in his grammar class one day, this led to his getting a nickname for life. The teacher asked the class what was the plural of fork, so this youngster shouted out "Knife", which he was afterwards known by for years amongst his school fellows. A young girl, while repeating parrot-like the line in the first Scottish Paraphrase - "The liquid element below", unfortunately rendered it "The Limping Elephant below", and for years she bore the name of the "Limping Elephant!" In the olden times they had in Dunfermline a great host of persons who bore such names, for example as the Blue Bethil, Fordell Rabbie, Sackin', Metal Johnnie, The Pike, Ticken Jamie, Jackie Broon the Bumbee, The White Sodger, The Dandy Tailor, Satan Hunt, The Tup's Hoose, where Mr Meldrum kept school in the Netherton, &c., &c. It seems to me that there was a far greater amount of humour abounding in those old days than what exists in these more prosaic times of ours. While they freely indulged in the habit of giving nicknames to each other, they drew the line at clergymen. In those days ministers were usually spoken of with bated breath, and universally regarded as being "no craw to shoot at"; and whenever a minister made his appearance in a street, there was a general stampede among the young folks, as he was regarded with profound awe. The only occasion on which I remember a nickname being given to a clergyman was when a minister had gone a long way beyond the usual time occupied by preachers in their sermons. Man of the people had a cold dinner that day, and when afterwards speaking of him or his sermon, they irrelevantly named him and spoke of him as "Cool the Kail!"

THE TEMPERANCE CAUSE.

There is a story told about a minister of the old school who had a young probationer officiating one Sabbath in his church. The young man's name was Semple, and after

the service of the day had been concluded the old clergyman addressed him thus: - "Come away in bye Maister Semple, and hae a glass o' toddy after your good day's work, ye'll be a' the better o't after your labours." "No thank you," said the youth, "I don't use spirituous liquors of any kind." "Very well," said the old clergyman, "come up to my study and we'll hae a smoke." "No thank you" said the young man, "I never indulge in smoking". The aged minister was somewhat taken aback at what he considered the new-fangled and very unsocial tendencies of the young man, so in a sarcastic, bantering kind of way, he asked, "Do you eat grass?" The young man answered with much surprise that "of course he did not," whereupon his old friend said, "I fear, young man, you're neither fit company for man nor beast!" Some of the people of Dunfermline may still remember a curious statement made by the late Dr Guthrie as to teetotal statistics. In delivering a speech on temperance the doctor told his audience that a relative of his, who had come from Yokohama, the capital of Japan, informed him that total abstinence did not suit the Japanese. He also told the worthy doctor that in Yokohama 50 per cent of all the total abstainers in that city had died that year! This was a rather startling piece of news for Dr Guthrie, but the doctor quietly assured his friend that this would not in the least affect his teetotal principles, as he did not intend to go to Japan. On pressing for some further particulars on the subject, it appeared that in that particular year there were only two total abstainers in all Yokohama, one of whom died of small pox! Dr Guthrie remarked afterwards that he took little interest in statistics, believing, like the late Mr D'Israeli, that we lived in "an age of statistical imposture".

COCK FIGHTING.

In the beginning of the present century cock fighting was a great pastime, and was very much enjoyed by old and young. It was greatly practised in Fifeshire about Old Handsel Monday holidays in January, and, strange to say, that many of the old schoolmasters in country district encouraged it very much, and had a good deal to do with the keeping up of this old pastime. It was not until the reign of our present Queen that a penalty of £5 was levied upon anyone who kept or trained fighting cocks in England. Much art was shown in the feeding, training, and preparing them, and in fastening to their feet spurs to make their attacks more deadly. The cocks were carefully weighed and matched according to their weight, and the old school dominies got the cocks which were killed as a perquisite which belonged to them. Lucky it was for the boy who possessed a favourite fighting cock. He was looked upon as the possessor of a great treasure, for in the olden time cock fighting was considered a branch of a boy's education.

In looking back upon this old and barbarous custom, every right-thinking person is inclined to regard with horror the depth of ignorance and barbarity which then abounded. But what is to be said about some of the pastimes indulged in at the present day in this country, and by what is called the very elite of society. Take for example the pastime of coursing as now practised in England. In my opinion it deserves the execration of every humane person. It is neither more nor less than chasing and worrying a number of defenceless hares by greyhounds trained specially for the purpose. The thousands of heartless spectators who look on the brutal carnage enjoy what is called a "long chase" - that is, the longer the torture of the poor doomed

hare is prolonged the more exciting it is. All the odds are against the poor panting creature in its frantic attempts to escape from its pursuers. Fox hunting, too, as practised by the nobility and gentry at the present day, is alike cowardly and degrading. By all means exterminate with speedy deaths such creatures as make prey on our domestic fowls, and do damage to farmers, but not protracted, cruel, and unmanly sport of them. The Maker of them never intended such barbaric treatment to be practised on the creatures He has made. The rearing and breeding of young foxes specially to afford cruel "sport" for the "upper ten" still goes on in our Christian country, like cock fighting and rabbit coursing in the mining districts at the present day.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1896.

DUNFERMLINE IN THE OLDEN TIME.

(BY AN OLD CITIZEN.)

NO 2.

"THE PIPES", OR WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT.

In the olden time, when newspapers were almost unknown to the great bulk of working people, as their cost forbade their use, news was often circulated amongst groups of working men who assembled at the street corners at meal hours, and at the public wells or "The Pipes", which formed the women's parliament. In summer time or in dry seasons when water was scarce, women and children had often to wait for hours and take "their turn" in getting their stoups and pitchers filled. The thing is almost unknown now, but long ago it was one of the most common sights to see young and old going to the public wells for "a gang of water". Here many a bit of scandal, gossip, and clash were retailed while waiting "their turn", and here, alas! many a sad and sorrowful tale was told. Here, too, many loud and angry rippits and squabbles were heard, also droll outbursts of genuine wit, fun, and clever tongue fence. In this way "The Pipes" served the purposes of the penny journal of the present day; and if one asked, "Whaur did ye hear that story, na'?", the answer was, "At 'The Pipes'." It may here be observed that some of the private wells of the town were noted for "drawing" and "masking" a good cup of tea. This was a matter of great importance to working people when common tea could not be got under five or six shillings a pound. Every house in those days had at least one pair of water stoups, which were invariably purchased by the intending husband, and the ceremony of the "Weetin' o' the stoups" was usually gone through at the last bachelor's supper prior to his being married. Although at every opportunity, such as births, marriages, death, &c., the whiskey bottle was produced, yet there was in those days of old nothing approaching the unparalled drunkenness, squalor, and misery we see abounding in the large towns and cities of the present day. As to the water supply. In every household they were very careful to see that before retiring to rest for the night there was a good supply. This particular habit had lingered and come down from former generations, when mostly all the houses in the town were thatched, and when, in the case of fire, it was absolutely necessary to have a supply of water always on hand. Thanks to the efforts of such men as Mr Lauder, Mr K. Mathieson and others, no "thought" need be "taken for the morrow" now as regards water supply. In thinking over some of the scenes and old worthies of former days the following story comes to remembrance. It was told at "The Pipes", in the olden time, when scarcely a newspaper existed, and when Dunfermline weaving was just about to waken up, and throw off the hum-drum ways of a century previous. The full harness and the Jacquard machine, which have revolutionised the weaving business, were unknown and undreamt of, and the cords, peeries, and simples were all in vogue, and regarded then as the perfection of damask

weaving. The story was that of

AN UNSUCCESSFUL WOOER.

Robbie Cammel one day awoke to the consciousness that he was in real love. There was a neat, trim, rosy cheeked young lassie called Kirsty - a dochter we shall call her o' Eppie Wulson's - in the fit-path that Robbie had often seen and secretly admired. She got a "place" as a domestic servant in Edinburgh, and altho' he had never ventured to speak to her, the light of his life seemed to have gone out when she left the town. Now that she had gone and left the town, absence seemed to "make the heart grow fonder", and all at once he resolved to go over to Edinburgh, and lay his case before her. So one day when his "web was oot", and having a day or two's rest from his labours, he resolved to go to the big city, and to be put out of his suspense. He took his journey on that oldest and cheapest locomotive - "Shank's naggie", of course - as in those days there were no railways, and the cost of the "Antiquary" coach was not for a moment to be thought of. So off he set to see his beloved Kirsty, taking with him a stock of oatmeal cakes, bannocks, and cheese to sustain him on his journey. Strange to say Robbie was never known to wear a cap or hat on his head, except on a Sunday. In Dunfermline this circumstance was never noticed, as we have seen very many of the handloom weavers there, long ago, going up and down the streets to the warehouses, &c., and standing in groups at street corners, bare headed, holding political discussions and settling the affairs of the nation! And here it may be observed too, that in those days a bald-headed man, like a toothless man, was not very common. In addition to being bare-headed Robbie had his white apron, or "brat" as it was called, tucked round his waist. He was in fact in his every-day garb, and quite forgot, till he was at the South Queensferry, that he was bare-headed! This did not disturb him very much - "Love laughs at locksmiths" - "Faint heart never won fair lady", &c. After due time he arrived in the great city, and took his way through the grand streets till he at length reached the sacred domicile of his lady love. While walking along he could not but observe that some of the passers by turned to have a second look at him, wondering possibly no doubt if he had escaped from bedlam! But Robbie never troubled himself, he had a high and honourable mission in hand. He felt a little nervous when he went up the steps leading to the door of the grand house, but up he went and rung the door bell. Soon a young and sprightly damsel appeared, and wished to know his business. So Robbie asked, "Dis Kirsty Wulson bide here?" the girl looked at the man in some amazement and said "Yes". She then went in and told her fellow domestic that "a bare-headed, daft-looking man, all the way from Dunfarlin' was at the door enquiring for her, and evidently in love with her, and was most anxious to see her". So Kirsty asked her fellow servant to go and tell the queer-looking man that she was engaged and could not see him. This sad rebuff terminated Robbie's unsuccessful courtship; he trudged away home again to Dunfermline that day, a sadder but a wiser man - another verification of the old adage, "the course of true love never did run smooth".

THE BLUE BETHEL (BEADLE).

Another story told at "The Pipes" was that of the well known Willie Nicol, the blue bethel (beadle) and gravedigger. Kirsty asked her friend Margaret if she had heard "o'

that droll pliskey that was played on Wullie the ither day?" "Weel, ye ken," said Kirsty, "Wullie thinks himsel' very clever, and is unco fond o' takin' his gemme aff his freends an' neighbours, an' makin' a fule o' them sometimes, ye ken; so you'll no hinder but ane o' his acquaintances payed him aff in his ain coin the other day. Ye ken Wullie, being gravedigger, was often blamed for the resurrection trade, so ane o' his acquaintances, wha wis as fond o' a joke as Wullie himsel', happened to see an advertesment in a Gleca newspaper, from a man who wanted a quantity o' banes (bones), and wha offered a gude price for the ton o' them. Weel, what dis Wullie's freend no dae but writes to this Glesca man, sayin' he would be happy to supply him every week wi' a hunder-weicht or twa at a reasonable price, an' he signed himsel', 'Yours truly, Wm Nicol'. In due time a letter cam' to Wullie, thanking him for his offer, and orderin' him to send twa or three hunder-weicht o' banes every week. Wullie was awfu angry, I understand, at the trick that was played upon him, an' we had a graund laugh at "The Pipes" yesterday at the Blue Bethel's Expense!"

Another story told at "The Pipes" was that of a man who was a shoemaker, and who had been elected a member of the Town Council of one of the neighbouring burghs of Fifeshire, After his elevation to public office his wife said to him - "We maun haud up oor heads noo Tammis". "Ay", said he, "we maun dae that Jean. After this day, pey great attention to the doorstep, see that it is ay weel cawmed an' white as a doo, an' hae everything aboot the hoose a kind o' genteel like, ye ken. As for yoursel', Jean, aye keep a clean mutch on your head, stop haverin an' clashin' wi' fishwives, auld women, an' ither gaun aboot bodies sellin' spunks, heather besoms or cawm. See that the bairns dinna eat meat wi' their fingers, or rin aboot the streets wi' their mooths a' treacle. See that Jenny, the servant lassie, disna enter into my presence wi' a dirty face or a dirty brat on, an' if she disna 'Sir' me an' 'Mem' you, just gie the graceless cutty a months warnin'".

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

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DUNFERMLINE IN THE OLDEN TIME.

(BY AN OLD CITIZEN).

SOME CHAT IN DAYS GONE BY.

In thinking over bygone days in Dunfermline, Auld Kirsty B comes to remembrance. She was always clean and tidy looking, and wore a snod spotlessly white soo-backit mutch on her head, tied with a band of broad black silk ribbon. She was a widow, and after the lapse of many years we have her appearance in bodily shape now vividly before us. She lived in a garret room. Long ago many houses were not furnished with either locks or bolts, and visitors used but little ceremony in going into neighbours houses. They just lifted the sneck without chapping or tirlin' at the door. If they were not mischievous, they were usually made welcome. There was to be seen Kirsty Tamson at the chimley cheek of her ain fireside with her neighbour Betty Johnston who lived "but an' ben" with her on the same stairhead. The wheel and whisks are laid aside, and her house is "like a new preen", trim and tidy after the ordinary labours of another day. The two then have their cracks about kirks and sermons, and the kittle points divinity and doctrine that were then greatly exercising the public mind. Old Kirsty meanwhile has her clay pipe, and is blowing a cloud or "takin' a blast", as she calls it. She "thinks and smokes tobacco", like that guid worthy divine, the famous Ralph Erskine. She goes on moralizing along with her neighbour Betty on things in general, the wicked world in particular. After discussing some moral or doctrinal themes they would then descend to the discussion of gossip, and subjects "of the earth earthy" would creep in. They talk of the days of other years when they were both young and supple hizzies; and of the feats performed by them in their youth. They speak of walking a distance of thirty miles to some important communion or preaching, and tell of how they used to travel on foot from Dunfermline to Glasgow and back to get the yarn they had spun, made into woollen cloth, and thought the thing no great feat at all. This was a feat which would be regarded in these modern railway and omnibus days as one of downright murder or suicide! Ever the anon Kirsty would put her pipe in the ribs for a tinkers heat, and again go on moralizing with increased vigour. She was largely imbued with the feelings of a pessimist, and thought things were going worse and worse every day. "Oh aye" she would say, "its a weary wicked world this, its naething but a vale o' tears. Pity me, sirs, I dinna ken what's to come o'er us puir folk in thae hard times". Poor honest body, she had come through the severe dearths and poverty of the early years of the present century, when meal and bread were at "ransom" price, and stern economy and thrift were the order of the day. When Indian corn meal sold for 2s. 6d and 3s. 6d per peck, and the 4½ lb loaf for 20d. From the sublime she descends to the ridiculous, and asks her friend Betty if she had heard of the awfu' fricht that auld Tibbie Henderson had gotten wi' her soo that had got drunk! This bit of gossip tickled Betty's fancy greatly, for she said "she never heard o' sick a daft-like thing a' the days

o' her life, an' that it couldna' surely be true". "I weel a wat'", says Kirsty, "its true as the gospel, and it happened this way. It seems that auld Tibbie Henderson's nephew, Jamie, who is an awjent for the shippin' o' goods, got some casks o' ale to ship, but some of the ale gaed bad, and got soor, and the brewers in Alloa sent word no to ship it, but keep it in hand. Weel, the casks lay on Jamie's hands for a lang, lang time, until they were maistly forgotten. Ae day hooever, it occurred to him that some sour ale might be gein wi' advantage to a soo that his auntie Tibbie had, and which soo was a fine denty beast, ne'er ready for the killin'. Weel, on his ain responsibility, ye ken, he quietly filled the pigs trough up wi' a quantity o' this soor ale, and said naething tae onybody aboot it. In the course o' the day, when Tibbie carried some brocks till her soo, she saw a sicht she ne'er had witnessed a' her born days! The brute seemed to hae gane clean daft, an' it was jumpin' and tumblin' aboot like mad! She got an awfu' fricht I'se tell you, for, as I said before, it was near the killin'. Weel, she ran to her nephew's office on the harbour head, wringin' her hands an' greetin', an' telling him to come awa' at aince for she thought her big, fat, sonsy soo had gaen daft. He looked very solemn like, an' tried to be a serious as possible, for he didna' ken what the upshot o' the business might be. Weel, after lookin' at the cratur jumpin' up an' doon, an' fleein' round its crae like mischief, he consoled his antie as weel as he could, an' said he was sure the pig would be a' richt the next day, an' that something had surely disagreed wi' its stamock. The next day sure enough the pig was a' richt again, an' as douce an' sensible as ever a pig could be, an' it never had an attack or was fashed wi' the same trouble again. Some weeks after that Jamie tell't his auntie what was the reason o' the pig's curious and alarming illness. They had a guid hearty laugh o'er the circumstances, but I can tell ye it was nae laughin' matter to the auld woman at the time it happened. She had for some months afore that, carefully fed an' attended tillt, for a guid deal depended that winter upon her braw sonsy soo.

OLD SOCIALISM AND CO-OPERATION.

We hear a good deal now-a-days about the spread of Socialism, but there is no doubt that something very much akin to this state of things existed in Dunfermline in the earlier years of the present century. In those old days it was co-operation rather than competition which was the prevailing and predominating principle. There was comparatively little competition, and certainly nothing approaching the colossal, mercantile, and financial transactions we see in the present day. There were many social ties to bind those old communities together, and to make persons feel their mutual dependence on one another. All over the town there were numerous associations and clubs of one kind and another, such as Niffler Associations, Menage Savings Societies, Mortcloth Societies, Guild Brothers Fraternity, and a large number of Newspaper Clubs, where each member subscribed, and had a certain time apportioned to him for reading the news of the day. All over the town, too, there were districts where each operative assisted another in beaming their webs, and every district had its beaming quarters. There were then no beaming machines in existence. Till the one invented by Wm Cant 65 years ago, all was done by hand labour. A great many pig-styes, too, abounded, and it was customary for neighbours who had no swine to give their slops "brock", and left over victuals to a neighbour who kept a pig, and at the pig-killing time such kindness was not forgotten, and friends and neighbours got a portion of the spoil. In this way it was made abundantly evident how

much each citizen was dependent for his existence and comfort on the help of his fellow-citizens and neighbours. The jacquard machine, and then the application of steam power to weaving, made a complete revolution not only in the trade and manufactures of Dunfermline goods, but also in the social habits and the relative position of the workers to each other. Dunfermline had to progress with the times, and handloom weaving is now a thing of the past. In the handloom days there was a large number of the citizens who, after years of hard work and thrift, attained the position of "Corks", as the people of Paisley used to call them. They were the happy owners of three or four looms, and they were regarded with favour by their fellow-townsmen, and looked up to as being in the intermediate position between the ordinary operative and the manufacturer, and all the enviable state of having neither poverty nor riches to trouble them. Regarding the keeping of pigs, to which we have already referred, it may be mentioned that 70 years ago, every householder who chose, was at perfect liberty to keep a pig if he so desired and had a bit of ground and a kail yard conveniently behind his house, and "the killin' o' the soo" at Martinmas time was a great event. Sanitary regulations were not then in force, and a pig sty near a human dwelling was not deemed so dangerous an erection as it is nowadays. The dwellings were then more widely scattered, and the danger not so great from those erections as would be now. After all, it may be questionable if the planting of a Gas Works in the heart of the city, with its foul and polluting smells, was not as great a nuisance as all the pig-styes of the olden time.

A CONTRAST.

A contrast is often drawn between what is called our present highly-advanced and enlightened days and the darkness and ignorance of bygone times. The contrast is not usually in favour of the past, but rather of the present. Our contention is that there were men and women of past generations who possessed as fine minds and as exalted morals as any living in the present day. Many of them long ago were living, no doubt, in humble dwellings, entirely devoid of many of the comforts and conveniences of our modern houses and their surroundings. But in many of those old humble abodes, men and women were trained in habits of thrift, independence, and godliness unknown of now. In many of those humble dwellings the inmates, with all their ungenteel ways, were not poor, but rich beyond calculation if they had the fear and love of God in their hearts, as many of them had. They almost preferred death to going to the work-house or living on charity. Many of the noblest and best of Scotland's sons and daughters have been reared amid the sad lack of the conveniences and comforts of modern life. Take the cases of men such as Thomas Carlyle, William and Robert Chambers, the eminent publishers, also Professor Cairns, for example, as told by themselves. "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith" are the words of eternal wisdom, and our own sage Thomas Carlyle has well said: - "Better is affection in the smoke of a turf cottage than indifference amidst the tapestries of palaces".

THE CHARTIST MOVEMENT - A CURIOUS INCIDENT.

It was at the time when the Chartist movement had its origin, when food was high in

price, and work was scarce, and when very great sufferings and hardships were endured by the working community, that the following curious incident occurred. At that period the Chartist movement engrossed the thoughts of a vast number of working people in Dunfermline and other places. In the year 1838 a committee of six members of Parliament and six working men prepared a bill containing the demands of the people and it was termed "the People's Charter". It contained six different points - such as extension of the suffrage, vote by ballot, &c.,&c. Immense meetings were held all over the country, addressed by men such as Joseph Sturge, Collins of Birmingham, Fergus O'Connor, &c.,&c.

The Chartists were divided into two parties, viz: - those who advanced "moral force", and those who were in favour of "physical force" being resorted to. Some of the physical force party went so far as to get a quantity of pikes and muskets secretly collected and distributed amongst themselves, and in the silence of night, at obscure places, were drilled and prepared for conflict with the British Government, if they were required. Amongst the foremost and most noisy of the physical force advocates, and one who possessed a long pike and underwent drill, was a Dunfermline handloom weaver named James R He was a little insignificant looking body, and had a half-starved appearance. What he wanted for in physical appearance was made up for in self conceit and bravado. He openly boasted that his friends and others belonging to the Chartist Party were determined to bring the British Government to its "hunkers", and to give it a thorough sweating! They would accept nothing less than "the Charter - the hale charter, and naething but the charter". One would have thought on hearing the brave talk of the little body, that he was a perfect Hercules, and that there was no hope of the British Crown surviving the attack of his fellow-Chartists. By day and by night it was Jamie's constant theme.

One of his neighbours, who was a bit of a wag, often warned him as to the risk he ran by his out-spokenness, and he was determined to test the extent of his heroism. So one day he got a friend to borrow the red coat, busby, and sword of a soldier who was at home on furlough, and who was living in the north side of the town. Arraying himself in these, and disguising himself so as not to be known, he went straight to the loom-shop where Jamie was working, having his drawn sword in hand. Jamie's shopmates seeing the red-coated soldier coming towards the shop, as they thought to seize him, instantly called on him to fly at once or he would be apprehended. There was no time for flight but out of the back window, but he instantly went down beneath his loom into the "tredle hole", and thus tried to escape observation and apprehension. The tall soldier now entered the loom-shop, and in a loud voice demanded in the Queen's name to know if one named Jamie R was there. He was informed that he was not there at present. So the soldier brought forth a paper which he read in a loud voice and said it was ordered by the Queen's Government to apprehend James R as a traitor, a dangerous and seditious subject, and a demagogue. Jamie was now in a state of great terror, for he had heard every word of the terrible warrant read; but before night he was put out of his state of suspense, and they all had a hearty laugh over the matter.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL
SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1897.

LOOKING BACK MANY YEARS.

II.

FORDELL, CROSSGATES, AND DONIBRISTLE.

It might be interesting to some of our readers to know some facts regarding the past history of the Fordell district. We might begin at the period of the Reformation, when a new departure was made and principles were adopted that influenced the character and habits of succeeding generations in this locality. The Reformation prompted greatly the prosperity of this country, by laying down as its chief tenet that every man was responsible directly to God, and that he ought not to surrender his conscience to any human being. It was the duty of everyone for himself to study the scriptures, which contained the revelation of the divine will, that there he might obtain the guidance which he needed both for time and eternity. He could not thus study the scriptures if he could not read, and, therefore, schools were founded. Thus, the reformation fostered the growth of knowledge, and from this time much attention was given to education. In the first book of discipline he was enjoined "Of necessitie that several kern have one schoolmaster appointed, such a one able to teach grammar and the Latin tongue, in town of any reputation; if it be upland country, then must a reader or minister take care of the young of the parish, and instruct in first rudiments, especially in the catechism and book of order. And furder, in every notable town there be erected a colledge in which the arts, at least logick and rhetorick, be really sufficient, master for whom honest stipends be appointed, as also provision for those that are poore and not able themselves or their friends to be sustained".

THE FIRST BOOK OF DISCIPLINE

declared "The rich and potent may not be permitted to suffer their children to spend their youth in vain idleness as heretofore. But they must be exhorted, and by the censure of the kirk session compelled to dedicate their sonnes by good exercise to the profit of the kirk and commonwealth, and that they must doe at their own expense because they are able. The children of the poore must be sustained at the charge of the kirk, and the ministers and elders with the best learned men in every town, shall in every quarter make examination how the youth have profited." Thus, at this early period

EDUCATION WAS MADE COMPULSORY,

"A Wee Keek Back"

And often entries were made in the kirk session records as to the time appointed to visit a school and to make reports as to their proficiency, and also as to the payment of books and school fees for the poor. Thus in 16th January, 1648, we find this entry: - "The session this day taking to their consideration the estait and caisse of some poore ones within the parishe, whose parents are not able to maintain them at the school, ordaines that they be maintained by the kirk box both for their schooling, and also ordaines every one of them to get twentie shillings to buy them buiks and other necessaris", By an Act of Assembly, 1642 it was apointed that the children should be instructed reading, writing, and principles of religion, and a certain time for learning catechism, grammar, and Latin. In June 17th, 1649, the session considered "that herds, such as are led to keep cattle in a summer season, grow up in much ignorance, by reason of their not frequenting the kirk, therefore appoint and ordaine that in all time coming the master of the familie where such are, will cause clieve them every 2nd or 3rd Sabbath that they may come to the church and be released sometimes of catechising, and because some of such are taken from school to wait on goods before they be instructed in reading perfectly, and other not being put to school, recommend to the master of the families that paines be taken on such to learn them to read, and this act be intimat the next Lords day, and elders visiting to see the observing of it". Again, 14th November, 1651, "The session considering the gross ignorance of God in the paroche and many are not able to keep their bairnes at schoole, the session thinks that poore people be helped, and that therefore chare table collection be called for once in the quarter, and also since there is almost daily catechising the young ones be still present and be bred up in the knowledge of the grounds of religione". In November 21st, 1651, we have a record of a collection for "poore people's bairnes". About a hundred pound Scots were spent annually on the education of the poor, and thus twenty poor children were educated free of cost to their parents. In December 5, 1651, "John Henderson, ane poore boy at the schoole desirous to learn to reid, and altogether distitute off maintenaince, the session appynts for him the Fryday's collection for a tyme". Money was also provided from the session box for clothing, and the purchase of the Bible for the poor. Those who

NEGLECTED TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL

were called before the session. Not merely did the church attend carefully to education, but also to the wants of the poor. Thus, in the first and second book of discipline, it was ordained "Every several kirk must provide for the poore within itself, for fearful and horrible it is that the poore, whom not only God the Father in his law, but Christ Jesus in his evangel, and the Holy Spirit speaking by St Paul, hath so earnestly commended to our care all universally so condemned and despised. We are not patrons for stubborn and idle beggars, who, running from place to place, make a craft of their begging, whom the civil magistrate ought to compel to work, or them punish. But for the widow and the fatherless, the aged, impotent, or lamed, who may not labour for their sustentation, we say God commended his people to be careful, and therefore for such also persons of honestie fallent into decay and poverty ought provision be made, and that out of our abundance their indigence may be relieved".

In the parish of Dalgety the poor were relieved from the box at the door of the church,

and deacons were appointed to attend to the distribution of their funds, and various entries in the session record showed how the money was spent for a poor woman lying sick for bedding, for one who was disabled with a diseased hand, and to pay a doctor for visiting a sick child. As regards

THE CHURCH SERVICES,

The General Assembly of 1648 ordained that the ministers should preach on the Lord's day both forenoon and afternoon. The word was to be preached in the forenoon, and the children were to be examined in the afternoon in the Catechism in presence of the people, and also the districts were visited by the elders once a month. In many churches, including Dalgety, there was a week-day service for catechising. Any misbehaviour was reprov'd. Thus, those who brought dogs to church were reprov'd and fined. On Sunday the church was crowded with an attentive audience consisting of farmers dressed in grey cloth with blue bonnets, and shepherds with plaids, and miners, and matrons with white mutches, and girls and boys. In the galleries were the households of Lord Moray, Mowbry of Lockhart and Laird of Fordell. On Sabbath the first bell rang at 7 o'clock, and at 8 o'clock the bell rang again when the people assembled. During the first hour of that service consisted of prayer, reading of the Old and New testaments and singing a psalm. Then at 9 o'clock the bell rang a third time, when the minister entered the pulpit and preached. The whole service lasted three hours. Then in the afternoon there was a catechical service of two hours. There was Presbytery visitations to see that family worship was observed. There were also weekly meetings for catechising. By Act of Assembly 1570, ministers and elders were enjoined to examine all young children within their parish, first when they reached the age of nine years, then when they reached the ages of twelve and fourteen. Before they were admitted to the communion, they were examined by the minister and elders, and none were admitted who could not repeat the Lords Prayer, the articles of belief, and the sum of the law, and who did not understand the nature of the sacrament. People of all ranks were examined as to their knowledge of religious truth, and whether they were diligent in reading the scripture, and whether they lived without scandal. Every elder had a district assigned to him, and was expected to take care of supervision over the people in that locality. Thus, the Reformed Church we have seen provided with great care for

THE WANTS OF THE POOR.

It also endeavoured to spread abroad the advantages of knowledge, and gave special attention to the religious training of all classes so that none might be ignorant of the ways of salvation, recognising that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. Doubtless attention to these matter has had a great effect in moulding the national character and in promoting the prosperity of the country, and in cultivating those virtues which have given to Scotsmen the pre-eminence which has attended them in many parts of the world. We might now glance at

THE CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

of this district as it is described, and the older inhabitants of the place. The parish

school was at Drumcooper, near to Mr Aitken's farmhouse. As there was no compulsory education, many were not taught to read or write. The school hours were from 9 till 1 and from 2 till 4p.m., and the evening class was from 6 till 8 p.m. The first hour of the school was devoted to religious instruction. Psalms were taught on Monday morning, and the Catechism during all the rest of the week. The scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were taught every day. Maps were often used in explaining the Bible lesson; and the lesson taught one day was rehearsed on the next. The pupils were also taught to repeat the names of the books of the Bible, and to turn up a passage in any of these. Now, many young men and women cannot do so. The children were taken to the pit for work between the ages of nine and ten, and therefore those who wanted to attain a satisfactory knowledge of the elements of education had to go to the evening classes. In them also the first half hour was devoted to religious instruction. The scholars were then taught to draw maps, and to be proficient in arithmetic, grammar, and mathematics. They were taught the history of Scotland from Scott's Tales of a Grandfather. They also obtained some instruction in French. The school was opened with a Psalm and prayer, and was closed at 4 p.m. with a prayer. The Lords Prayer was often repeated at the close, and a boy or girl was asked to lead in that prayer. The examinations were conducted by five or six of the local ministers who examined each class. Dr Ralph, the minister for Dalgety, was wont to visit the school weekly. Formerly the Hon. Mrs Mercer Henderson was wont to provide silk cord nets to bind the hair of the girls. She provided the silk cord to be made into these nets. The older children wrought them for the younger ones as well as for their own use. A barber monthly was brought from Dunfermline to cut the boys hair. The girls who had their hair bound up in these nets, and the boys who had their hair cut, were presented with a new penny. Much attention was paid to the observance of religion. Though Dalgety Church was several miles from Fordell village, many attended it regularly. A blind woman named Ellen Patrick was wont to travel night and morning to Inverkeithing Church. On the morning and evening of the Sabbath family worship was observed, and at this a Psalm was sung, and then the Bible was read, and closed with prayer. On Sabbath many went to church plainly dressed. The women were dressed in cotton prints, and the children often had to go barefooted. After their return from church, the children were not allowed to run about, but were catechised. On the Sabbath evening the teacher, Mr Thomson, had a Sabbath School class at 5 o'clock. This class was attended by a great many old people. It was opened with prayer and singing. The teacher took the whole class himself and asked questions. This class lasted for two hours - from five till seven o'clock. Dr Ralph, the minister of Dalgety, conducted the Sabbath night services once a month. On this occasion the attendance was larger, and Mr Thomson acted as leader of psalmody.

THE SABBATH.

was very strictly observed. No beds were made and no ashes were taken out of the ashpan, and no water was carried, and there was little cooking. When the minister visited his people on a pastoral visitation there were catechising. The children were examined in the Shorter Catechism and the older people in the larger one. At a communion season there were services during the week - on Thursday, which was called the Fast Day; then on Saturday at 5 o'clock for preparation; and on Monday at

11 a.m., for Thanksgiving. A large number went regularly from Fordell to Dalgety, starting at 11 a.m. for the church. One Sunday in the year children were taken down by the teacher to the church, marched two an two, the girls first. The children previously were taught the psalms. The teacher, Mr Thomson, then acted as precentor, and the children stood in front of the precentor's box. The gentry sat in the gallery. Dr Ralph had a special discourse for the children. He was a most assiduous visitor amongst his flock, and was very popular. His wife was also greatly esteemed. She was accustomed to get worsted, and gave it to the people to make stockings, and hence some called her "Stocking Nelly". Dr Ralph began his ministry in Liverpool. He was minister of Aberdour before the Disruption. At that time he lost the greater part of his congregation. He was then presented to Dalgety, where he died. It was during his ministry in Dalgety that

MOSSGREEN CHURCH

was built. It was opened on 15th of August 1852. Dr Ralph preached in the forenoon, and Dr Boyd, now of St Andrew's (A.K.H.E.) conducted the afternoon and evening services. The ministers who have officiated there are the following: - Messrs Kinness, Young, Markland, Thomson, Miller, Robertson, Nasmyth, and Clarke. At first it was a mission charge, but it was endowed in the year 1879. The endowment was accomplished during the ministry of Mr Nasmyth, and the manse was erected for the accommodation of Mr Robertson. All the former ministers are now deceased, with the exception of the Rev. R. Thomson of Ladywell, Glasgow, who was ordained in Mossgreen, and who is still remembered by the older inhabitants of the place, and who, like the Pastor of Townhill, has gained much public notoriety with whom on more than one occasion he has been associated in his great demonstrations. Thus, if Townhill can boast of a Primmer so can Mossgreen of a Thomson. The parish churches were situated at a considerable distance from Crossgates. It was felt that there was need for additional church accommodation.

A CHURCH WAS BEGUN IN CROSSGATES

in the year 1802, in connection with the U.P. Church. The Rev. John Allan was the first minister. He only acted for a short time. He was buried under the pulpit, and is the only minister who has thus been interred. The Rev. T. Wilson was the next minister, whose wife was a member of the family of Aitken, the proprietors of Hill of Beath, and thus, this valuable property became the possession of the ministers of Crossgates. Mr Graham was Mr Wilson's successor. He was a man of considerable ability and knowledge. He was very fond of travel, and could describe the places he had visited in a very interesting manner. His health having become impaired, he started for a journey round the world, visiting Australia, and passing through America on his return; His health became much worse, and with difficulty was brought back to this country. He died at Edinburgh on his way back to his home. His successor was the Rev. R. Begg, under whose ministry the Crossgates Church has greatly prospered and many improvement have been made. The interior of the church has been remodelled and beautified, and a very comfortable church hall has been built, which has contributed much to the efficiency of the congregation. Improvements have also been made upon the manse. Mr Begg and the Crossgates congregation deserve much

credit for the manner in which they have successfully carried out these improvements and have raised a large sum of money. Having given the names of the ministers of the Crossgates district we might also mention the names of the teachers who have spent their lives in the important work of instructing the young and moulding the mind and character of the future generations. At first there was no fixed

SCHOOL IN CROSSGATES.

The first regular teacher was Mr Patti, and then Mr Horn, who retired some years ago, after many years of good work. Mr Wallace, the present teacher, was Mr Horn's successor, under whose very efficient management the school has greatly progressed. The school buildings have been much enlarged and improved and a new residence has been erected for the teacher. Mr Inglis was for a long time the teacher of Dalgety Parish School, which afterwards was removed to Hillend. Mr Cunningham succeeded Mr Inglis. At his death Mr James Currie became the teacher of Hillend, to whose efficiency the Inspector's report bears ample testimony.

THE COLLIERY SCHOOL AT FORDELL

village was built by Sir Philip and lady Durham in the year 1840. After the passing of the education Act, Fordell School was put under the Board - September 1st, 1874. Mossgreen School was then erected as a substitute for it, and was opened 28th July, 1876. Mr Thomson, who became the gifted teacher of Dunfermline Commercial Academy, taught in Fordell School for fourteen years. He was succeeded by Mr Mann, who in turn was succeeded by Mr Currie, who taught in Fordell School for 19 years, and in Mossgreen School for 21 years. Mr Currie has diligently and efficiently discharged the onerous and important work of teaching for the long period of 51 years. Before coming to this locality he taught at Burntisland, Crossford, Dunfermline, Free Abbey, and Kinghorn. In this parish he has taught for 40 years next October, namely 19 years in Fordell and 21 years in Mossgreen Schools. After long and diligent service he has retired, and his son, the headmaster of Hillend, has been appointed his successor. Having considered the provision made for religion and education in the past, we might now consider

THE HABITS OF THE PEOPLE.

as they are described by a few who still survive. Miners had to be up at 4 a.m. and be down the pit at 5 a.m. where they remained until 4 p.m., having an interval of half an hour for breakfast and dinner. When the day's work was over the young people hurried home to get their picks sharpened and to be ready for the evening school at 6 o'clock, which was kept open summer and winter with the exception of a month's holiday at harvest. Many attended these evening classes from the age of ten till forty, and many were in attendance after they were married. Miners wrought as long as they were able, from 12 to 14 hours. There was no time limit to their work as at present. Horses, men on day's wage, and banksmen, and hill folk wrought from 5 a.m. to 4 p.m. Those, however, who worked at the coal could work as long as they liked. The coal, when taken up to the surface, was built up and not couped over as at present, and the wagons were filled from the ground. The miner's Gala day, which is observed as a

holiday on the first Monday of June, is observed in commemoration of the time when the miners of Fife succeeded in reducing their hours of work in the pit to eight hours. Wages were lower, but the miners had free houses - no rent and no taxes. The chief deductions from their wages were twopence a week for the doctor, and the same to the smith for sharpening their picks, and a penny a week for the school. Every man employed at the pit had to pay the penny for the support of the school whether he had a family or not, and if he had children at the school he paid threepence each for the first three and the fourth was taught free of cost. As the children left the school at the age of nine or ten for the pit, there were seldom more at the school than four from one family. Women worked in the pit till after the passing of Lord Salisbury's Act excluding them about half a century ago. And even after that time they continued to do so under men's names - Many women wrought in the pit till they were married. The health of the miners has been much improved by the laws enforcing ventilation.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1897.

TORRYBURN IN THE OLDEN TIME.

IT'S CONNECTION WITH THE DUNFERMLINE LINENS.

TRADE PROSPECTS OF THE NEAR FUTURE.

In the middle of the last century Torryburn was a centre of industrial activity. The coalfields were worked on a scale which indicated astonishing enterprise for the time. The pits were drained on a day level, which to this day vomits a considerable quantity of mineral water on the shore at a point a little to the west of Torryburn village. On the estate of Torry some eight seams of coal, giving an aggregate thickness of 40 feet, were known to exist, and on the estate of Crombie old reports show that six seams, reaching an aggregate thickness of 25 feet, had been proved by test bore. On neither of the pits were attempts made to erect pumping engines, and the management depended upon the day level for drainage. In consequence of this, operations on both estates were much confined to the upper seam - the main coal - which was from seven to eleven feet in thickness. It is therefore highly probable that most of all the seams lying under the main seam and the seam immediately underneath are lying intact, and in view of the construction of the new railway the field should be a desirable one. With a modern pumping engine, the little water which has collected in the eighteenth century mines will not cause the slightest trouble. A statistical account got up by the Rev. David Balfour in 1793 shows that in 1755 the population of the parish was 1634; but in 1791 the census only brought out a total of 1600. The decrease was accounted for by the fact that the upper seams of coal on the estate of Crombie had become exhausted, and the miners had to migrate to adjoining collieries - Culross, for instance. Mr Balfour tells us it appears from the register that in 1697 no fewer than 114 people had died in the parish, and of that number 76 "fell on sleep" in the months of January, March and April. In the year 1699 as many as 81 deaths were recorded - 40 falling by the way in September, October, November and December. When it is stated that the average for some years previous to the years stated was from 20 to 25, an idea of the extent of the scourge will be obtained. Old chroniclers tell us that the "vast mortality" was attributable to a "dearth" which prevailed more or less for seven years. Meal was as high as 2s per peck, and day labourers did not earn more than 1s per day in summer, and from 9d to 10d in winter. Wrights, and masons earned about 1s 6d per day, and ploughmen had to content themselves with the modest income of from 61s to 81s per annum. For turnip thinning and hay making, women had 6d per day, and for shearing with hook in harvest, they had from 7d to 8d per day, with the usual scone and some milk. In 1793 there were 50 people on the poor roll - and 15 of that number had to content themselves with the miserable pittance of 3d to 6d per week, while the others got a small allowance for house rents, &c. The funds from which these payments were made was got chiefly from the church door collections and the profits of the mortcloth. At this time the village could boast of a fleet of no

fewer than 13 vessels which bore an aggregate of 1000 tons, and gave employment to 70 seamen. The larger vessels were engaged in the foreign trade and the sloops were coalers, carrying Torry and Crombie coals to London, and occasionally the Baltic ports. In addition to the 13 vessels there was two passage boats, the largest of which, Mr Balfour tells us, was built by the merchants of Dunfermline principally for the purpose of transporting to Barrounstowness manufactured diapers, which were brought to Crombie pier in carts and conveyed to London by Barrounstowness traders. The Dunfermline boat also brought goods for the city. The other trader was chiefly employed in importing commodities for the consumption of the inhabitants. There were no manufacturers in Torryburn in 1793, but a considerable quantity of yarn was spun for the Dunfermline manufacturers, and this alone brought into circulation in the village between £400 and £500 a year. The spinning trade necessitated daily communication between the village and the city. That the people of Torryburn were not behind the matters, education is apparent from the following paragraph which we quote from Mr Balfour's report on the parish: - "There is a good parochial school here for the following branches of education: - Latin, English, writing, arithmetic, navigation, and book-keeping, besides the Sabbath evening school, which is supported by subscription, and is at present in a flourishing condition and well attended." Navigation occupied a prominent place in the time-tables of Fife coast towns and villages in the olden time - a fact which at once proves that our forefathers were fully alive to the benefit of technical education.

With the collapse of the coal industry, the population of the parish became reduced, and a further decrease was experienced when the Dunfermline spinning trade ceased. A good many houses in the neighbourhood were soon abandoned, and have been either allowed to tumble into decay or have been included in the walls which form the boundaries of the larger houses of the district. No new tenement was added to the village for many years, but in recent years some old tenements have been reconstructed and thoroughly modernised; and with the construction of the railway and probably the opening up of the minerals, there can be little doubt that an impetus will be given to the re-building work. As soon as the demand for more houses arise no difficulty will be experienced in finding houses requiring a touch of the modern hand, or in procuring sites for new buildings. A gravitation supply of wholesome water would be a great advantage to the district; and with the return of the industrial prosperity which has been so long absent, it is to be hoped that an effort will be made to place the village in possession of an abundant supply of water.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1898.

AROUND THE DISTRICT.

COWDENBEATH NOTES.

BRASS BAND CONCERT.

Last night a concert under the auspices of the Brass Band Committee, was held in the Co-operative Hall. The concert was promoted for the purpose of augmenting the funds of the proposed band. Dr and Mrs Craig very generously agreed to organise the concert, and they were successful in securing a grand array of talent. Dr Craig occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance, the hall being crowded.

In opening the proceedings the chairman said it was extremely desirable that such an organisation as a brass band should be had for the Burgh. When they considered that Cowdenbeath was the centre of a large and industrious community, and that hitherto no attempt had been made to establish such an institution, they would consider that it was time the defect was remedied. When they looked around and saw such places as Kelty and Crossgates with first-class bands, it was time that Cowdenbeath was moving in that direction. It may be said by some people that a brass band could not take part in a musical entertainment, but he thought it a very good organisation in musical education. As regards the funds, he might say that they were in a flourishing condition, and judging from the large audience that night, and the proposed bazaar, which they all hoped would be a success, he felt confident that to a considerable degree the success of the venture was already assured. He considered that the committee had done very well, and that the public of Cowdenbeath were indebted to them for their work. (Applause).

The programme, which was a large and most varied one, was gone through in first-class style, and reflected great praise on the performers, whose efforts were highly appreciated. Unfortunately, owing to illness, Mrs Craig, who was announced to appear, was unable to be present. The following were the ladies and gentlemen who lent their services for the occasion: - Mrs Bolton, Dunfermline; Mrs Nasmyth, Crossgates; and Misses Murdoch, Cowdenbeath; Ramsay, Cupar; Davidson, Cupar; and Messrs Dr Nasmyth, Crossgates; Moodie, Alloa; Kelso, Cowdenbeath; Hepburn, Alloa; and Kirk, Kirkcaldy.

The committee were unable to state definitely the amount accrued from the proceedings of the concert, but they are confident of adding a considerable sum to the funds of the band.

INVERKEITHING NOTES.

THE INVERKEITHING BELLMAN OF YE OLDEN TYME.

In the olden times, and about seventy years ago, newspapers were almost unknown to the bulk of the working men and women, and, as a rule, newspaper clubs were very common in Fifeshire. They were formed by ten or twelve persons (near neighbours) joining together and getting a weekly paper, which was handed round from one household to another in regular turn. Two or perhaps three hours perusal was allowed to each householder, when the paper was read aloud to the assembled household. At that period advertising in the newspapers was a costly extravagance not to be thought of by working people, and so the town's drummer or the bellman did duty in this way. The charge for the drum was about one shilling for the round, and for the bell fourpence of sixpence. Many of the old bellmen and bellwomen were quaint and original characters, and many of their announcements sometimes caused great merriment to the bystanders, old and young.

As a specimen of the quaint announcements made by the bellman, the following may be give: -

"Notice! There can be gotten every nicht between sax an' aucht o'clock, het penny pies an' tippenny anes, at Mrs Tamson's i' the Mill Raw. Noo's the time for your bargains!"

"Notice! There was lost this mornin' a wee little bairnie. It had a wee curly headie, an' had on a blue chakit daidley, an' its supposed the said little bairnie had wandered efter its faither when he gaed till's work between seven and aucht o'clock. Whosoever has foundit the aforesaid little bairnie an' returnin' it to me or to its distractit paurents i' the Mill Raw, will be handsomely rewarded an' paid for their pains".

"Notice! There was lost last nicht between the Cross o' Henderkeithin' an' the fit o' Dumfarlin' Wynd, a lady's black silk bag. The aforesaid bag contained a sampler, a saxpence, a pair o' gloves, an' a silver thimble. Who's ever has foundit the same by returning it to me, the crier, will be rewardit an' thankit for their pains",

"Notice! There has arrived at the pierhead o' Henderkeithin' a boatload o' caller herrin', likewise some creen skate, newly caught. Noo's the time for your bargains!".

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1899.

BURGH LIFE IN INVERKEITHING IN THE OLDEN TIME.

LECTURE BY MR AND. S. CUNNINGHAM.

Under the auspices of the Inverkeithing Established Church Renovation Committee, Mr And. S. Cunningham, Editor of the Dunfermline Journal, lectured in the Music Hall, Inverkeithing, on Wednesday, his subject being "Glimpses of Burgh Life in Inverkeithing in the Olden Time."

The Rev. Mr Stephen occupied the Chair, and was supported on the platform by Mr Wardrop, Captain Potter, Mr Tulloch, and Mr Strachan, members of the Kirk Session. The chairman briefly introduced the lecturer, and anticipated an enjoyable hour among records of the past.

Mr Cunningham, who was received with applause, said - In a speech the other week on "The Duty of Public Service", Lord Rosebery said: - "There never was in the history of Great Britain, or, I suspect, the World, so great a call as now upon the energies and intelligence of men for the public service, and that call is increasing daily." Having contrasted the work of the Parliamentarian of old with the work of the member of Parliament of to-day, his Lordship went on to say: - "Then there are great municipalities - great and small. These, no doubt, have to some extent always existed, but not in their present form. A new spirit has been breathed into their somewhat dry tones . . . They are changed altogether in spirit and in function . . . The municipalities of to-day are very much different from the municipalities of my youth, and, I suspect, that if the Town Councillor of forty or fifty years ago were to present himself in a Town Council of to-day, he would regard their work with astonishment, and they, perhaps, might look at him with some surprise." Although it is quite true, as Lord Rosebery indicates, that our municipalities have been subjected to enormous changes in recent years, yet it is a fact that the municipalities of old, like the local governing bodies of to-day, had a good deal to do with the social life of the people, and I am going to give you a glance to-night at social life in the olden time in the burgh of Inverkeithing, as revealed by records of the Town Council and other bodies. It is only by pausing in life's journey, and by taking a glance back, away into the dim and distant past, that we will be able to distinguish the differences between the local governing bodies of far-off days and of to-day. Inverkeithing is

ONE OF THE OLDEST BURGHS IN SCOTLAND,

and the records of its Town Council therefore provide quite a storehouse of facts bearing on the social life of the people for centuries. I find that the ancient place was created a burgh by King Malcolm IV. in 1158 - just some thirty or thirty-five years after Dunfermline was raised to the dignity of a burgh. I know that these dates will not agree with the tradition which has been handed down from generation to

generation, in the burgh of Inverkeithing. It is almost an every-day remark that Inverkeithing is an older burgh than Dunfermline. That is not the case, and I believe that what gives rise to the error is the fact that the hand of time has not been so busy with its changes in Inverkeithing as it has been in Dunfermline. Although the Gallows Tower is no longer with the people of Inverkeithing, and changes have been made here and there in the main street, yet the citizens cling tenaciously to the broad fore stairs, the corbie stepped gables, the red roofs, and many institutions that make the thinking visitor almost feel that he will see a man in knee breeches, cocked hat, and buckled shoes emerging from some moulded doorway.

THE MOBILISATION OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

In these days of Russian and French scares, we have read a good deal about the mobilisation of the Volunteers, and the necessity of putting the people in a good position of "defence", if not "defiance", and the first Council record I am going to call your attention to is one throwing a light on the mode of mobilisation which the Government adopted in the fifteenth century. In a minute bearing the date 1462, we are told that the Magistrates of Inverkeithing, with other Magistrates, were served with a copy of an Act of Parliament of Scotland ordering the burghs to provide themselves with "ane gude axe, and ane targit of ledden." The minute tells us that this precaution was taken to enable the burghs "to resist the schot of Englande".

HOW A FIRE RAISER WAS DISPOSED OF.

It is apparent that in 1462 the authorities disposed of offenders in a much more summary fashion than they are now brought to justice. In that year a woman, Janet Anderson, was convicted of being art and part in fire-raising at Rosyth, and the poor woman was ordered to be drowned. It seemed to be thought that seeing she had cost the Laird of Rosyth so much by the fire, it would be absurd to allow her to be a burden upon the community for a single minute after sentence had been pronounced, and she was forth with drowned within the shadow of the spot where she had helped to raise the conflagration. It may be interesting to some of you to be told that

LAMMAS FAIR

is an institution which is almost as old as the burgh. But the Lammas Fair of the olden time was a very different fair from that of modern times. I find that as far back as 1640 five fairs were held in the burgh - in March, May, June, August, and October. But these were fairs which were attended by vendors of all kinds of goods and of live stock, and the main streets were crowded with purchasers who hied themselves by boat and road from all parts of the country to Inverkeithing. In 1640 Lammas Fair was held on the second Wednesday of August, and here is an extract from the minute of the Council which bears the date April 1753, and which will prove to you what the fairs of old were: -

"The Lambmas Fair, formerly held the first day of August for all kinds of linen and woolen goods and is now and in all time coming the second Wednesday of August new style, and the day following being Thursday for horses and cattle, and all kinds of merchant goods". I am afraid that the Town Council of recent times have scarcely

kept faith with the enactment of 1753 which fixes Lammas Fair for the second Wednesday of August for "all time coming". The fair of last year was held, as you are aware, on the second Friday in August. But you must allow me to take you back from the fair of August last to the Lammas Fair of 1652, and for all I know of the fair of this far-off time I am indebted not only to the Town Council records but to the records of the Kirk Session of the burgh of Dunfermline. It appears from the burgh records that the fair of this date was a great day for "fun, frolick, fit races, ale, and drunken folks, gentle and simple, and folks cam frae far and near to it". Indeed so much did this day figure in the life of the people of West Fife that young and old seemed to find their way to Inverkeithing, and the all embracing phrase "gentle and simple", referred to in the minute I have quoted from, seems to have included the Kirk Session of the burgh of Dunfermline, for in the records of the session we have the following naive confession: - "There was nae session this day because of Lammas Fair at Inverkeithing".

A DUNFERMLINE COLLECTION FOR THE POOR MEN.

There is another entry in the Dunfermline Kirk Session Records which shows that the "gentle and simple" of the city did not exactly confine their interests in Inverkeithing to the "fun and frolic" of a Lammas Fair. This minute tells us that a part of the collection of one day was given to "twa puir men in Inverkeithing whose houses were burnt doon". These were evidently not the days of Fire Insurance Offices; and I think you will agree with me when I say that it said a good deal for the hearts of old Dunfermline, that it should have allowed its sympathy and its religion to take the practical turn here indicated. When I read the entry I could not help thinking of the words of the beloved James: - "Show me thy faith apart from thy works, and I by my works will show thee my faith".

SCHOOL TEACHERS AND TEACHERS OF MUSIC.

The Town Council minutes show that, despite many vagaries, the Council did a good deal, considering the funds at their command, for education. One minute dated 1690 shows that the council had declared the office of teacher of the Burgh School vacant, because the teacher "for sometime bypast had taken up his head with trading in malt and other things". What would you have to say to Mr Wardrop, Mr Scott, and other teachers if you found them adding the occupation of malster to the profession of teaching? A minute of a later date shows that the minds of the councillors had been much exercised over the appointment of a teacher of music for the burgh. The Council had gone to the church for several Sundays and heard a Mr Moudie, who had been presented, and on a vote being taken on Mr Moudie's fitness for the post the Council declared "that his voice is too low and therefore not fit for the post".

BAD WOMEN AND STURDY BEGGARS.

Women who were guilty of what was considered to be scandalous conduct were dealt with at the close of the seventeenth century in a manner which ought to have brought reform, if severity is calculated to bring reform. To appreciate from a minute that one woman had been reported for misbehaving. The Council met and passed an Act of

banishment, ordering the officers to put her outside the ports by tuck and drum, and calling upon the inhabitants of the burgh, on fear of losing their liberties, not to "harbour or resett" her in any manner whatsoever. About this same time sturdy beggars seem to have become a pest to the inhabitants, and at a special meeting of the Council it was ordered that constables should apprehend all sturdy beggars and vagabonds, and that fourpence be allowed to the constables for every "vagabond and sturdy beggar that they shall incarcerate in ye black hole of ye place".

THE UNION: BLEACHING GREENS.

Although a cry for Home Rule all round was some years ago started, I don't know that any of you to-night could say that the Union was a mistake. Had it proved a failure, however, the people of Inverkeithing would have had clean hands, for I find that the Town Council of the burgh, in meeting assembled on the 20th October, 1706, unanimously resolved to petition Parliament against the Union. It is apparent that the Council of 1728 were fully alive to the utility of bleaching in the production of snow white clothes, for I find that at a meeting they ordered a bleaching green to be laid out in the "east and west loans, where there are two good wells, so that the burgesses may get their clothes bleached, and to dry their linings".

A HANGMAN FOR THE BURGH.

It appears from a minute, dated 1731, that the Council had had a letter from the Clerk of the Regality of Dunfermline, asking Inverkeithing to join Dunfermline in the maintenance of a hangman. The minute shows that for years the Council had had the idea in view of joining with Dunfermline, and, considering the fact that when the Magistrates had passed sentence for crimes of vice, they could not get sentence "putt into execution," it was agreed to join Dunfermline, and to pay a sum of £3 yearly to the hangman fund of the city. Just a year after the agreement had been entered into, the Dunfermline hangman presented a petition to the Inverkeithing Council, praying that they should allow him to go to London on furlough to get into a Charity Hospital "to get cured of ane sore leg." The Council agreed to the prayer of the petition on the condition that all interested agreed. In two years after this a minute crops up, from which it appears that an account for £6 - two years contribution - had arrived from Dunfermline. I am not in a position to give you a record of the Dunfermline hangman's work in Inverkeithing; but it seems as if he had had little or nothing to do, for, at a meeting at which the Dunfermline account was considered, the Clerk was instructed to "have no regard to the Dunfermline demand." It was also agreed that an endeavour should be made to be "free, if possible, of the two years salary," and to intimate that the Council would have no further "use for the executioner." It was decided to make this intimation because the hangman had left the country, and from this I infer that he got into the London Hospital to get his sore leg treated. The hangman referred to, a John Cummin, was the last hangman appointed by Dunfermline Town Council. Dunfermline prisoners charged with capital punishment were after this tried in Edinburgh, and from an Inverkeithing minute, dated 1735, I find that a woman who was charged with child murder was removed to Edinburgh to be tried.

NON-ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL : SINGLE WOMEN.

The mind of the Council had, it appears, been very much exercised over the non-attendance of boys at school in 1695, and in order to encourage a larger attendance of boys at the burgh school, the Magistrates enacted that "no schoolmistress shall teach lads, and restricted them entirely to lassies." It appears from a minute, dated 1702, that single women were pretty hardly dealt with by the Council and the Authorities. On this date the Town Council ratified all Acts made by their "predecessors anent forbidding and discharging any single woman to keep a house by hersel' within the burgh and territories thereof, and landlords to let them houses."

PRACTICAL SYMPATHY WITH A FELLOW COUNCILLOR, A BAILIE, AND OTHERS.

It appears from the Inverkeithing minutes that a James Hodge had been a member of the Council at one time. Not content with the ancient burgh as a field of business, James had gone to Dundee in the hope of pushing his fortune. Things evidently did not turn out particularly well with James in Dundee, for we have a minute which states that the Magistrates informed the Town Council that James lay in prison for debt in the Tollbooth of Dundee, and from his prison he wrote an epistle to his old friends in Inverkeithing stating that the Magistrates had agreed to liberate him on payment of £10 Scots. The Magistrate, on receiving the letter, had collected £7 from the inhabitants. Hodge's case was carefully considered, and seeing James had once been a member of the Council, it was agreed to make up the balance of £3 from the burgh funds. What would the electors of to-day have to say to the Council if they distributed funds for the relief of ex-Councillors who had fallen on evil times? The practical sympathy of the Council was not by any means confined to such cases as the Dundee one, however. Very trying times were experienced between 1740 and 1760, and here is a minute dated 1744: - "The same day the Councile considering that Thomas Anderson, ane old man, and a late Bailie of the burgh, is now come to low and straitening circumstances, and his wife, the Councile therefore allow Dean of Gild Adam Turnbull to give him two pecks of oatmeal each Saturday night till he be stopit by the Councile." And here is another minute, dated 1753: - "The Councile orders Mr Rankine to give Isobel Addison half a boll of meal for the use of the orphan or foundling she keeps." I believe that the reading of these minutes will force the same question upon you as it did upon me - where did these old burgh fathers get the meal to dispense the charity indicated? Well, I am pleased to say I can throw some light on the matter. At the very time that Isobel Addison, here referred to, was getting her half boll of meal to help her to maintain the foundling, the Magistrates met, and a minute informs us that they purchased 210 bolls of oatmeal and 10 bolls of pease from Mr Chalmers, "for the town's use, owing to the scarcity of provisions." Of course, all this meal was not given away on charity. The Council made this purchase because of the scarcity of food, and those who were able to pay paid - a minute telling us that the council "appoints the meal to be sold at one shilling sterling per peck." Later on, in 1780, for instance, I find that the Council's charity took a different form. A charity ball for raising funds for the poor, was held in the Town House, and the Council took twelve tickets at 2s each.

THE TRADE UNIONISM OF 1729.

The Trades Unionists of 1729 evidently did not believe in the principles of free trade. I find that in this year a great many "baxters" or bakers, who had sprung up in the burgh, and the bakers who had been in business for a considerable time became very despondent over the opposition. So depressed did the firm of William & Charley Hodges become that they presented a petition to the Council setting forth that their trade had been almost ruined by new bakers, and they begged the Council "not to allow any 'baxters' to set up in the burgh except they serve their apprenticeship to a freeman of the burgh, or were married to freemen's daughters". About the same date the coal or peat carters from Crossgates - you are all aware I am speaking of days long before Cuddie Kyle's day - ventured to add to their slender incomes by charging a little extra on the old fees for carting, and the Council lashed themselves into a fury over the idea, and the minute bearing on the question is so furious that one is almost driven to the conclusion that hanging would be too good for the poor carters who ventured to put a little on the hiring of coals.

A RAMPAUGIN' BAILIE AND HIS BELLY.

In the year 1744 a terrible squabble seems to have arisen between the old Deacons and some of the Councillors. The Deacons seem to have been insisting on receiving what they considered to be their rights as voters for the new Councillors, and the Provost, Mr John Cunningham, advocate, favoured the Deacons, while Hugh Grandison, the oldest Bailie, was against them. Bailie Grandison had taken the precaution to have a warrant from two Justices of the Peace for the county preventing the Deacons from voting, and on the Provost asking the Deacons to go upstairs and vote, a terrible scene, as we say now-a-days, occurred. The minute sets forth that Bailie Grandison stepped forward and said "that if they came up they would do so over his belly - the Bailie all the while rampaugin' and shaking his staff in a mobbish, riotous manner." The minute leaves us to infer the result of the fight between Bailie Grandison and Provost Cunningham, but considers the fact that the Bailie was armed with a document from two Justices of the Peace, I infer that this "mobbish" attitude he struck was successful, and that the Deacons and the Provost feeling that Grandison's belly and stick blocked the way, performed a feat by retreating downstairs, similar to that of the worthy who with

"Twice ten thousand men
Went up the hill and then came down again".

DEFAMING THE COUNCIL.

As the following minute will show the Council of 1755 did not relish the idea of being harshly and unjustly criticised: - "The Council being informed that James Bell, weaver and shipmaster, in Inverkeithing, had defamed the Magistrates and Town Council of this burgh in a publick manner before several witnesses, and as it is their duty to vindicate themselves from such aspersions, the said Magistrates and Council order a process to be raised against the said James Bell at their instance, before the Commissary Court of St Andrews, and they appoint John Flockhart, writer in

Edinburgh, to raise and execute the said summons as soon as possible, and appoint the Treasurer to advance the said John Flockhart money for raising and carrying on said process". Nothing appears in the minutes as far as I can find, bearing further on the summons, and I think that we may infer that the threat of the process brought Bell to his senses, and that the matter was allowed to drop on his realising that in Old Testament times these words are written: - "Thou shall not speak evil of the rulers of thy people."

HOW THE BURGH WAS CLEANED IN 1760.

I am afraid that if the Council were strong in charity in 1760 they were not boiling over with enthusiasm for sanitary reform. They met in July of this year in the middle of an old fashioned summer - summers of the olden time were said to be much warmer than the summers of our day - and considered a number of complaints about "middings" lying on the street. They passed an Act declaring "that in all time coming the streets shall be cleaned by the inhabitants once every month"; "this to be intimated by tuck and drum". The main street of the burgh is very wide, but if each of the householders were at present to collect ashes at their doors for a month I am afraid that the nice pavements which have been laid down recently would be encroached upon to a considerable extent.

THE WEIGHT OF BREAD: A SUNDAY SCHOOL.

In 1783 Edinburgh bread seems to have been the standard for Inverkeithing bread. In this year a Mr Currie was one of the Bailies, and it appears that at some of the street corners some reflections had been made on the Bailie's bread. The Bailie evidently could not stand this, and we find him representing to the Council that he "understands there has been several unjust reflections made against the weight of bread in town being lighter than the Edinburgh loaf, and he suggested that the Council should procure a specimen of Edinburgh bread for guidance of local bakers". To people who are engaged in Sunday School work the following minute will be particularly interesting: - "Bailie Walker reported to Council that it would be proper to appoint a Sunday School in the town, in order to keep the children off the streets and from the shore on Sunday. The Magistrates to meet and commune with Mr Paisley, the schoolmaster, on the subject". The school was opened, and I hope that the teachers of the youth of those days would very soon rise above the bare idea of keeping the children off the streets and the shore, and would realise that Sunday schools had higher objects and aims than keeping children off the streets.

THE HALLBEATH WAGON ROAD: THE FIRST UMBRELLA.

The Hallbeath-Inverkeithing wagon road was opened in 1783, and a minute tells us that the Council, "Considering that the Hallbeath Coal Company agrees to send down three wagons of coal for two bonfires, and the remainder to be disposed of among the poor . . . the Council appoints the Magistrates to entertain the Company at the first coals coming down and take a glass with them". An old note which I have come upon and which is dated 1786, stated that umbrellas were first seen in Inverkeithing this year. A William Walker was the first to walk down the High Street in a pouring rain

one day with a "gingham" above his head, and the innovation is stated to have brought out the people, and "made everie ane wonder, gigil, and lauch". What wonderful changes time brings. If this fanatic of the 18th century could come back to the burgh of Inverkeithing I don't think that people would "gigil and lauch" much although he walked down the main street with a parasol above his head.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

Much as we have advanced in matters educational, I don't know that we are much beyond some of the ideas held by Inverkeithing Town Council in 1785. In that year I find them appointing a school mistress to teach girls to "sew white seams", and they bind themselves to give the teacher "a proper salary", and they did not stop at technical education. At a later date I find them taking up sick nursing, and they voted £6 to be applied for educating a woman in midwifery, "as it is the opinion of the Council that an additional midwife would be required in the burgh".

AN OLD ELECTION.

In these days party spirit ran high at election times, and candidates had their little failings cast in their teeth with painful candour. The election of 1760 was a stormy one. The candidates for the provostship were Admiral Holbourn and captain Robert Haldane. There was a lot of protesting on both sides. Objections were taken to a number of voters on the plea that they had been bribed, or had at various times been in receipt of charity. The vote of the man was objected to on account of his having "in a scandalous and unjustly manner embezzled the town's money", and that "he is presently lurking and absconding for fear of action ready to be executed against him for debts to a great extent." It was alleged against Admiral Holbourn that his procedure had been "violent and illegal," that he had brought into the town "a great number of armed men assuming to themselves the name of press gangs," that overawed and intimidated the voters, many of whom had been obliged to desert their houses, whereby (as the recorder of the day puts it) "the freedom of election in this land of liberty has been destroyed." The gallant Admiral's adherents denied these charges with indignation, and alleged that voters favourable to their interests "had their windows broken open under cloud of night" by the opposite party, no doubt with no other intention but to have carried them off if they had found them.

THE CHURCHYARD.

In 1776 the Council ordered all back doors leading into the churchyard to be built up immediately, as it was thought their existence had something to do with the number of church windows that got broken.

A SCENE AT THE COUNCIL BOARD.

In the year 1771 Provost Swinton informed the Council that John Tilloch "gave him abusive language and offered to strike him" and suggested that the Council should expel John Tilloch from their midst. Mr Tilloch replied that the provost was actuated

by private pique; that the incident referred to did not take place at a Council meeting but in a public house where there was no business being transacted "but only drinking". He denied that he had struck the Provost, but on the other hand the Provost had frequently "been commanded by the company" to refrain from striking him (Mr Tilloch). Mr Tilloch further stated that he had often received abusive language from the Provost; and that his son, Sebastian, and his son-in-law, Alexander Thomson, and had had glasses of punch flung in his face. Sebastian Swinton's version of the incident puts another complexion on the story. He says that on going into Mrs Kirkland's, where a number of people were assembled, he found Tilloch abusing his father, and handing him a glass to pacify him, the ungrateful Tilloch, without the least provocation, had then called him a "puny bastard" and hurled the glass of punch at him. The Council prudently advised the Provost to consult a lawyer on the subject, as they did not feel qualified to adjudicate in the matter.

THE NATIONAL JUBILEE.

The jubilee of George III's ascension was celebrated throughout the country with great rejoicing, and seeing you have recently celebrated Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee by the erection of a grand fountain, it may interest you to be told that King George's jubilee is stated in an old Inverkeithing record to have been "celebrated by a public subscription dinner and plenty of drink in the Town House, with the usual healths and hurrah;" and "that there were several large bonfires on the streets; that the houses were illuminated with lamps and candle lights; that old keys were converted into cannons for firing off; cows thigh banes were also made to fire; squeebs and sky rackers never devaldit as the pouter firin' and uproar lastit frae aboot six until midnight".

THE TOWN PIPER.

Away back in 1785 a piper was brought all the way from Sutherland to fill the post of burgh piper - his emoluments being fixed at £2. 2s - and coming near our day, 1817, I find the following minute: - "The Council appoint John Gibson town officer, in room of the late John Grieve, and agreed to allow him a salary of £7. 10s sterling a year, for which he is also to go through the town with a fife every morning and evening along with the drummer".

WHEN WAS THE CROSS REMOVED FROM HIGH STREET?

Now, here I intend to conclude; just last Friday night a Councillor friend of mine was very anxious to know if a dabbler in fiction was romancing when he claims he ended an old Lammas Fair race at the Cross in High Street. Here are the minutes which answer the question: -

1796 - "The Cross is in a ruinous condition, and danger of the long stone falling down".

1798 - "The Magistrates received a letter from Mr Ronaldson, Surveyor to the General Post Office, Edinburgh, recommending that the Cross should be taken down, and some repairs made upon the street, now necessary on account of the mail coach being

established".

1799 - "The Cross removed from its old site on the side of the High Street, and rebuilt on the space opposite the Townhouse - cost of erection, £14; cast iron railing, £12. 6s. 7½d"

AN ECHO FROM THE PAST.

Now I feel I cannot linger longer among events of far-off days. In these grant-earning days at our schools, history is often relegated to a scrap of time which cannot be spared from certain grant-earning subjects. Now I humbly think that this is a mistake. The more we know of history the better. The glance I have given you of life in the ancient burgh has, doubtless, revealed many vagaries; but I think you will agree with me when I say that some good features have been brought to light. Where could we find a prettier picture than that in which we are told that in a terrible time of distress, Dean of Guild Turnbull was asked to serve out to an old man who had served the burgh, "two pecks o' oatmeal every Saturday nicht until he was stopit". What a fine old woman Isobel Addison must have been who took in a foundling, and what a happy idea it was of the Council to vote her half a boll of meal to feed the orphan with. My dear friends it is a far cry from now to the days when Dean of Guild Turnbull emerged in gun-mouth breeks of corduroy, rig and furrow stockings, and shoes with brass buckles, from one of those outside stairs over there, but let us not try to think to-night that coming down through all these years we hear the echo of the kindly words in which he dispelled the Council's charity to the poor ex-Bailie and to the widow who succoured the foundling. In case the echo of the old Dean's voice should not be distinct enough for our dull ears; in case the Scotch of the eighteenth century should be too quaint and sound like a foreign tongue rather than our mother tongue in our ears, let me put the echo in words which have come down and down to us through centuries - the words as familiar as the glints of pretty sunsets which we can see in October from the Ferry Hills and Rosyth Castle: - "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these, the least of my brethren, ye did it unto me".

VOTES OF THANKS.

The lecture was well received, and on the motion of the Chairman a cordial vote of thanks was awarded Mr Cunningham.

Mr Cunningham said that he had a lot of stories to tell about Inverkeithing, and he hoped some day to be able to give the people of the burgh of Inverkeithing the stories in such a form that they would be able to sit at the fireside with their feet on the hob and read them. (Applause)

On the Chairman having been thanked for presiding, the proceedings closed.

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IN DUNFERMLINE IN THE OLDEN TIME

JAMES VI. AND THE ANCIENT BURGH.

The West Port of 1327 was removed in 1780; the East Port of 1488 was torn down in 1752; The Collier Row or Mill Port vanished in 1754; the Cross Wynd Port in 1752; the Rotten Row Port in 1754; and the Tollbooth Port in 1769. Calderwood, in his history of the Church of Scotland, makes some reference to the ports of the burgh. We are told that a "Parliament" of the clergy was appointed to be held in Dunfermline in 1587. Dunfermline in that year was reported to be "clean of the pest" or plague, and it appears that there was no other town in Scotland with a clean bill of health where the "Parliament" could be so conveniently held as Dunfermline. The brethren came from all parts of Scotland to Dunfermline on the date fixed for the "Parliament", but on their arrival they found that the ports of the town were, by directions of the Provost, all shut against them. The Provost alleged that he had the King's express command for shutting the ports, and the brethren were compelled to hold their "Parliament" in a field adjoining the burgh, and, after a short meeting, they adjourned to meet at Linlithgow. Henderson, in his annals, mentions that there is a curious note in Melville's diary anent this frustrated Dunfermline "Parliament". Here is the note: -

About the end of November (1585) warning was made, according to the order of the Kirk, be the last Moderator athort the country, to the brethren to "conveen" in General Assembly (conform to custom before the Parliament at Dunfermline, na vther meit town being free of the pest. The brethren frequentlie furth of all parts resorting thither, the ports of the town was closit vpon them be the Provost for the time, the Laird of Pitfirren, alleging he had the King's command so to do; therefore the brethren commending that wrang to God, the righteous Judge, convenit sa mony as might in the fields, and comforting themselves mutually in God, appointed to meet in Linlithgow certain days before the Parliament. But God within a few years peyit that laird and provost his hire for that piece of service, when, for the halding out of His servants from keiping His assemblie in that toun, He made his awin house to spew him out, for on a day, in the morning, he was fallen out of a window of his awin house of Pitfirren, three or four house hight; whether by melancholy despair, casting himself or by violence of unkynd guests lodged within, God knows; for being taken up, his speech was not so sensible as to declare it, but within a few hours after deit.

No reason is assigned for the provost's (the Laird of Pitfirrane) action in closing the ports against the brethren; but one may almost infer that the Provost of Dunfermline of 1588 had begun to study the ways of the microbe, and took the action he did to prevent the plague being re-introduced into the city by people who hailed from where the pest was raging.

THE OPENING AND SHUTTING OF THE PORTS.

The town ports, it may be interesting to say, were opened by two officers at five o'clock in the morning and shut in the evening on the ringing of the curfew bell at eight o'clock. The curfew bell was rung in Dunfermline up to 1844. In that year the bell began to be rung to suit the factory hours in the morning; but the eight o'clock bell still rings, although it has lost its original meaning. Brewer says "The bell rung in the reigns of William I. and II. at sunset to give notice to their subjects that they were to put out their fires and candles. Prior to the conquest the 'Evensong Bell' ring for vespers"

"The curfew bell tolls the knell of parting day."

SOMETHING OFFENDS JAMES VI.

In April 1587, James VI. was entertained at a banquet held in Dunfermline. At the banquet something occurred which did not altogether please the King, and he suddenly left the banquet. It is difficult to say who annoyed His Majesty; but it is evident from the following which appears in Meyse's Memoirs that he had become very seriously offended: - "The King, being mightily irritated, took sudden journey out of Dunfermling to Burliegh. Four or five days afterwards he came back to Dunfermling, and next day passed to Kinnell. The Earl of Huntly, who entertained the King, was commendator of Dunfermline Abbey. He it was who to justify his revenge against the Earl of Moray, attacked Donibristle House and burned it to the ground and killed the Earl". Just shortly after the banquet, King James and his three Estates of parliament finding that there was not a sufficient revenue to support the dignity of the crown, and considering how much land the crown had in former days bestowed on the Church, "resolved to strip the church in general of most of its lands, and add them to the crown". An Act to this effect was accordingly passed by the Estates. A year later, 1588, King James became of age, and it is evident that he had got over his irritation at the Dunfermline banquet. He then granted a charter to the burgh confirming the gifts, privileges, etc., bestowed on three of the Abbots, by Richard in 1322, John in 1395, and George in 1549.

OLD FAIRS.

In the same year the King granted charters conferring on the burgh the "right and privilege" of holding public fairs in March, July, September, and October. These fairs were great gatherings. People flocked from all parts of the district to Dunfermline and disposed of or purchased all kinds of goods. The Cross was the great centre of attraction for the crowds, and here great quantities of goods were disposed of.

A CONVENTION.

On September 20th, 1596, a convention was held at Dunfermline by James VI. A resolution was approved for recalling the Papist lords who had been punished for conspiracy. At the convention the baptism of Princess Elizabeth, the infant daughter

of James VI., who was born at Dunfermline, came under consideration. It was arranged that the baptism should be celebrated at Holyrood on 28th November, and there the ceremony did take place.

CHARLES I.,

the second son of James VI., was born at Dunfermline in the Royal Palace, on 19th November, 1600. The late Dr Robert Chambers, in his "Picture of Scotland", relates an old tradition which he states he heard in Dunfermline in 1882. The tradition was that: -

Charles was a very peevish child, and used to annoy his parents dreadfully by his cries during the night. He was one night puling in his cradle, which lay in an apartment opening from the bedroom of the King and Queen, when the nurse employed to tend him suddenly alarmed the royal pair by a loud scream followed up by the exclamation. "Eh! My bairn!" The King started out of bed at hearing the noise, and ran into the room where the child lay, crying "Hout, tout, what's the matter wi' ye, nursie?" "Oh!" exclaimed the woman, "there was ane like an auld man came into the room and threw his cloak owre the Prince's cradle; and syne drew it till him again, as if he had ta'en cradle, bairn, and a' awa' wi' him. I'm feared it was the thing that's no canny". "Fiend, nor he had ta'en the girnin brat clean awa!" said King James, whose demonological learning made him at once see the truth of the nurse's observation; "gin he ever be King, there'll be nae guid i' his ring; the deil has cussen his cloak owre him already!" This story is generally told (says Chambers), and in the same manner, by the more primitive portion of the inhabitants of Dunfermline, and the latter part of the King's observation is proverbial in the town, it being common to say to a mislear'd or ill conditioned person, "I dare-say the deil has cussen his cloak owre ye!"

On the 18th February, 1601, Robert III., son of James VI., was born at Dunfermline. The Young prince was christened on 2nd May and was the same day created Lord of Annandale. Prince Robert died on the 27th May, and his remains were buried at Dunfermline. In the month of March 1603

THE KING SUCCEEDED TO THE THRONE OF ENGLAND

and shortly afterwards the Royal family bade adieu to Dunfermline and all their Scottish residences and set out for London. Lord Seton and Henry Wardlaw took charge of Dunfermline Palace. King James had evidently a fondness for Dunfermline, for in 1617 he paid a visit to the burgh - the first time since his accession to the English throne. He was well received throughout Scotland, and his reception in Dunfermline was particularly cordial. James died in 1625. It may be interesting to state that in 1606 he established Episcopacy in Scotland. In 1613 his daughter Elizabeth was married to the elector palatine an alliance which brought the present Royal family to the throne. In James's reign the authorised translation of the Bible was execrated. This is one of the good features connected with his life. One of the bad features is the connection he had with the plot by which Ralieggh was brought to the block.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1899

WHEN MINERS WERE SLAVES.

Just 100 Year Ago

The mining community of Scotland have not a great deal to be thankful for to the Scotch Parliament. The English Parliament on the olden time seems to have acted on the principal of leaving the English miners severely alone; but in the sixteenth century the Scotch Parliament was very much exercised of the question of keeping the miners in the position of a slave, and it is to the Parliament of Great Britain that the miners owed their freedom. In 1592, for instance, an Act was passed by the Scotch Parliament by which the crime of setting fire to "coal heuches" or quarries was ranked as treason. Shortly after the passing of the Act, a poor Fawside miner was

Hanged At The Market Cross

Of Edinburgh for having set on fire a "heuch", and as was the custom of the time, this miner was beheaded and his head placed on a pole beside the "coal heuch" to which he had set fire. This barbarian course was adopted in the hope that it would bring an end to the fires.

The Slavery of the Seventeenth Century.

Early in the seventeenth century, coal works began to spring up in various parts of the country, and now the coalmasters began to draw miners from the old works to the new. Parliament in those days did not draw its power from the people, and the monied classes could get almost anything they liked from it. Hence it was that in 1606 an Act was passed which ordained that no person should hire, fee, or conduce any salters, colliers, or coalhewers without sufficient testimonials from the master whom they had last served, and that anyone being then without such a testimonial was bound, upon challenge within a year and a day by their late master, to deliver them up to him, under the penalty of £100 Scots for each person, and each act of contravention on the colliers, bearers and salters, so transgressing to be held as thieves and punished accordingly. So wide was the interpretation put upon this Act, that miners became the slaves of coalowners, and if a pit was stopped at one colliery, the poor people went and obtained work at another colliery, the first employer had the power of withholding a testimonial or discharge, and he could recall his old slave ta any moment when he re-opened his works. In 1672, an Act was passed for the establishment of

Correction Houses For Idle Beggars And Vagabonds,

and in the hope of increasing the workers at the pits, this Act authorised the coalmasters, salt-workers, and others who had manufactories in the Kingdom, “*to seize upon any vagabonds or beggars wherever they can find them, and to put them to work in the coal heughs or any other manufactories, and are to have the same power of correcting them for the benefit of their work as the masters of the correction houses*”. Many miners have long held that because of the danger attached to coal mining, it is a calling which should only be followed by practical men, and they would object to an influx of unpractical “*vagabonds*” and “*idle beggars*”; but an Act authorizing the authorities of these times to seize vagabonds and idle beggars and send them to reclaim waste lands, or to help the poor crofters in the Highlands in their work of making stiff land grow two blades of grass instead of one, might now and again be of some service. A peep at the records of Dunfermline Town Council and of Culross and other records can not fail to impress one with the severity of the bondage under which the poor miners of the olden time toiled. A few examples will suffice to illustrate. It appears from Dunfermline Town Council minutes of 1713 that the Earl of Rothes sent a letter to the Town Council asking for the loan of two colliers, when the Council “*warranted the bailies to lend the Earl of Rothes, David Murgan and George Brown, upon the Earl’s bond to restore them on demand without expense; and in case the Lady Pittencrieff wants William Watson, warrants the bailies to lend Watson to her*”. History does not record that the Lady of Pittencrieff ever negotiated for a “loan” of poor Watson.

The Bondage of 1641.

The Act of 1641, which brought every man employed about a mine under bondage, actually gave employers power to punish their workmen if they lay idle during Yule time and other times. One paragraph of the statute declares that at Yule time and other “*tymes in the year*” the salters and colliers “*lye idle and employ in drinking and debosherie to the great offense of God and the prejudice of their maisters.*” The clause goes on to ordain that the workmen to “*worke all the six days of the weeks under paines of twentie shillings everie daye and other punishment of their bodies.*” It may be interesting to the Rev. Jacob Primmer to be told that the Act of 1657 provided that so superstitious observance of Yule should, under pains and penalties, take place among the colliers and salters. Mr James Barrowman, mining engineer, in a paper on slavery in the mines, gives an extraordinary example of the tyranny of the times. In 1730, a James Scott took a lease of a coal mine at Rutherglen belonging to a Robert Spence, and worked the same for 16 years, when he gave up the lease and opened up a work on another estate. Spence took the work into his own hands in 1760, and claimed the colliers that Scott had taken with him to his new work. The Court of Session upheld Spence’s claim, finding that the colliers were not bound to the tacksman, but to the coal at which they wrought during the currency of the tack. A Lanarkshire colliery had been in the market in 1771 – it was under lease, and had 23 years of the lease to run – and here is an item in the valuation – “*To the value of the property of forty good colliers, with their wives and children, at the rate of £100 a head, were they immediately delivered; but as that rate cannot be for the space of*

23years their present value at that rate is only £1302. 5s. 7d.” colliers and salters were excluded from the Habeas Corpus Act of 1701, which secured the liberty of the subject. The statute was an Act passed for “preventing wrong imprisonment and delays in trials”, but it was provided that *“the Act is in no way to be extended to colliers or salters.”*

The Half Hearted Act of 1755.

About 1750 a strong agitation began against the slavery of the poor miner, and in 1755 a measure was passed by which all persons not then in actual employment at collieries; but who should thereafter become miners, were to be treated as free labourers. As Mr Nelson Boyd points out, the Act was not prompted by humanitarian sentiments; but because, as the preamble recites, *“there are not a sufficient number of colliers, coal hewers, and salters in Scotland for working the quantities of coal and salt necessarily wanted, and many new discovered coal remains unwrought; nor are there a sufficient number of salters for the salt works to the great loss of the owners, and disadvantage to the public.”* The preamble of the 1755 Act is as follows: - *“Whereas by the statute law of Scotland as explained by the Judges of the Courts of Law, many colliers and coal hewers and salters are in a state of slavery or bondage, bound to the collieries and saltworks where they work for life, and are transferable with the collieries and saltworks when the original master has no further use for them . . . and whereas the emancipating or setting free of the colliers coal hewers and salters in Scotland, who are now in a state of servitude, would be the means of increasing the number of colliers, coal hewers and salters, to the great benefit of the public, without doing any great injury to their present masters, and would remove the reproach of allowing such an act of servitude to exist in a free country; it is therefore enacted that from after the 1st July, 1755, no person beginning work as a collier, coal hewer or salter, should be bound to the colliery of saltworks, or to the owners thereof, otherwise than as ordinary workmen.”* With respect to those already at work, it postponed their complete emancipation for several years. The further period of service being graduated according to the age of the workman. What was granted with one hand was taken away with the other. A writer in the ‘Scotsman’ the other day, for instance, says: - *“Complicated provisions which almost seem to have been inserted with the special object of rendering the Act nugatory, paralysed the efforts of the workmen in their endeavour after freedom. Every workman could be compelled to provide and teach an apprentice within a specified time, or to default and remain under disability for three years longer. Then again, when this requisite period had been completed, the workman desirous of acquitting his liberty had to present a petition to the Sheriff of the county, and obtain a decree finding that all formalities of the statute had been complied with. In consequence of these provisions the condition of things remained pretty much in status quo, so far, at least, as respected colliers, for a considerable time longer.”* The agitation for further reform was continued, and in 1780, Sir John Henderson, M.P., of Fordell, paved the way for a new Act. Sir John struck a blow at the slavery among miners by granting the miners of Fordell their freedom, and it is this freedom which the miners of Fordell to this day celebrate by the “Annual Parade”. This action on the part of Sir John and the action by Lord Abercorn, led to the passing of the Act of 1799, which emancipated the miner and gave him a free citizenship. How the Act of 1755 was evaded will be apparent from

the following paragraph which we quote from the Act of 1799: - *“And where there is a general practice among coalowners and leasees of coal in advancing considerable sums to the colliers, or for their behoof, much beyond what the colliers are able to repay, which sums are advanced for the purpose of tempting them to enter into or continue their agreement, notwithstanding the sum so advanced are kept as debt against the collier, be it therefore further enacted that no diligence or action shall be competent for any sum or same of money hereof or to be set or advanced to colliers or other persons employed at the collieries as aforesaid by the coalowner or leasee of any colliery, or by any other person or persons on their behalf, or for any debts due by the colliers or other persons aforesaid, which shall be acquired by the said coalowner or leasee, or by others on their account, either previous to their engagement or during the currency thereof and in any view of the same, excepting always such sums as shall be advanced to any collier or other persons employed at the collieries aforesaid during the currency of his or her family in case of sickness.”* The Act also declared that all coal bearers should from 13th June, 1799, be as completely free, as if they had obtained the Sheriff’s decree.

How The Men Took Their Freedom.

It is somewhat curious that the liberated miners in some districts did not take kindly to their newly acquired freedom. Accustomed to looking to their masters for assistance when incapacitated for work by age or accident, they now feared the consequences of their new position. They had never known the value of laying past for the proverbial “rainy day”, and they were in constant dread of the unwanted character of their position. So far from prizing the blessing conferred upon them, they regarded the interest taken in securing their freedom as a mere device on the part of the proprietor to get rid of what termed “harigold” or “head money” – a sum of money payable to them when a child was born, which increased the property of their master. The Rev. James Frame and Mr John F. Erskine, who wrote of the Alloa district in the Statistical History of Scotland, state that the allowances given to the old colliers when past labour, previous to 1755, was two pecks of meal per week, and he had free house and firing continued to him, the same as when he was working. Every widow had a peck of meal per week, and a free house and coal. It was doubtless the giving up of these perquisites which drove some of the miners to the conclusion that they had bought their freedom at too high a price. The Alloa writers state that some of the pits, where women and girls bore the coals, were as much as 18 fathoms, and the colliers paid them 4d per chalders of 30 cwts. for bearing. A diligent bearer could bring six chalders to the surface per week. This means that those poor creatures were toiling in a stair pit from morning till night for 2s per week.

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1899

OLD CULROSS.

Approaching the quaint haven of Culross by way of the gigantic steel bridge that spans the Forth at Queensferry, the traveller is transported almost at a bound from the fierce competitive excitement of modern life into the hush and mystery of the dim religious past. Nestling under its woody heights, on the margin of a beautiful bay, and overshadowed by the grey tower of its ruined Abbey, the old borough town has an ideal situation, yet the stream of industrial progress that has borne many an obscure hamlet to wealth and importance has, strangely, left it in the still backwater. Seen across the blue waves the brilliant tints of its red roofs harmonise with the bright greens of its hanging orchards, while the soft greys of the distant Ochils meet and merge into the azure of the summer sky. Nearer, the picturesque buildings, reflecting in every architectural freak the sturdy independence of the ancient inheritors, excite a keen interest, and the old Norman tower on the ridge is eloquent of departed grandeur.

Culross is associated with the earliest missionary efforts of the Scottish saints. Here, according to Wyntoun's chronicle, the elder St Serf spent his arduous life, and here, according to the explicit statement of this monkish biographer, St. Kentigern was born. The personality of St Serf has been hopelessly obscured by an adumbration of grotesque miracles, but his distinguished pupil has left many memorials of zeal, not the least conspicuous being that noble Cathedral erected over his tomb on the banks of Molindinar Burn at Glasgow. A distinguished occupant of the Western Archiepiscopal Chair erected a memorial chapel in 1503 to mark the spot where his remote father in God – the saintly Mungo – began his illustrious career, and here, near the beach, stands its neglected ruins still. The site of

Serf's Rude Cell

is, in all probability, preserved by the ancient monastery, for veneration of holy ground was congenial to the spirit of the primitive church. This stately pile, of which a mere fragment remains to attest its magnificence, was founded by Malcolm, Earl of Fife, in 1217, and here uninterruptedly through six hundred eventful years has the presence of the Almighty dwelt between the cherubim, and the message of salvation has been proclaimed. The edifice has suffered from the usual form of disintegration, from the gnawing tooth of time, from the iconoclastic fury of the Reformers, from the predatory incursions of sacrilegious raiders, and from the misdirected zeal of utilitarian renovators. The fine Norman tower is now surmounted by a bartizan which destroys its antique character, and the interior of the choir, used since the Reformation as a parish church, has been adapted to modern convenience with little regard to the preservation of its venerable features. Yet there lingers about the ruin a halo of far off days, a greatness that found expression in massive masonry, a devotion that overflowed in graceful arch and foliated capital. From the roof of the old tower a magnificent prospect is obtained, embracing practically the whole basin of the Forth from the peak of Ben Lomond, where its springs originate, to the rocky Bass, where its waters are lost in the ocean. Across the noble estuary lie the fertile fields of

Lothian, backed by the far extended Pentland Range, while, underfoot, the pleasant southern exposure of the monastery gardens and the general adaptability of the site cannot fail to commend the excellent taste and practiced skill of the shrewd Cistercian Friars. The

Bruce Mausoleum

is an interesting adjunct to the Abbey Church. It contains an imposing monument in alabaster erected to the memory of Sir George, whose elder brother became first Lord Kinloss, and whose commercial genius created the prosperity of the old town. The figure of the Knight reclines upon a sarcophagus, while statuettes of his children kneel in front. Within the crypt is also deposited the heart of the second Lord Kinloss, encased in a silver casket. The young gallant was killed in a duel by Sir Edward Sackville on Dutch soil in 1613. The existence of the relic was verified by Sir Robert Preston during the present century. The mansion house adjoining the church yard has not only risen upon the ruins of the Abbey, it has usurped its very name. It was built in 1608 by the first Lord Kinloss either from a plan furnished by Inigo Jones, or in close imitation of his architectural style. Its owner – one of the Court favourites who accompanied his Royal Master from the English capital – prospered under a monarch's smile, and, true to the instincts of his race, essayed to found a family in his native land. But whether from lack of enterprise or by the frown of fickle fortune, the family decayed, and the spacious structure shared its fate. Although an imposing edifice, it remains unfinished to this day. Two old houses to the west end of the town, associated with the same expansive period of its history, deserve attention. One is locally known as

"The Palace".

The date 1597 and the initials and arms of Sir George Bruce graven on its walls seem conclusive evidence against its claim to rank as a Royal residence; but, on the other hand, the enterprising Knight may only have enlarged and adapted a building which had a record stretching back to the days when Dunfermline town was the Scottish capital, and when princely lodging by the sea in close proximity to the hospitable religious house was by no mean an improbable contingency. The other buildings, bearing the date 1611, and occupying the same court, was no doubt erected to accommodate some member of the Bruce family. Externally, the house presents no special features in a town where old buildings are common; but, internally, some features of their pristine grandeur remain. The principal rooms in the Palace, having a floor area of 360 feet, is over-arched by a concave panelled ceiling, decorated with allegorical pictures in oil. These, embracing Ulysses and Sirens, and Fortune with her wheel, have an ethical significance emphasised by suitable scrolls in black letter. The corresponding room or banquetting hall in the other house is less elaborately painted, and both bear painful evidence of the neglect of the ages. Other objects of interest are the quaint old building facing the Cross and known as the "Study", probably from a little secluded room at the top of its square tower, where the medieval alchemist might burn the midnight oil undisturbed, and the Rosicrucian practice his mystic with impunity; the Town Hall, with its picturesque bell-roofed tower and its antique flight of outside stairs; the Cross with its time-worn pedestal; and the deserted pier, once th

scene of busy activity. Culross owed its ancient commercial importance to three branches of industry that have signally failed it. The most notable of these was the

Mining of Coal Seams

Lying under the Forth. When the Reformation of religion had been accomplished, and the vexed question of the succession to the British throne settled, Scotsmen eagerly turned their attention to trade and commerce. It was then that George Bruce conceived the bold idea of sinking a shaft just within low-water mark, and pushing his operation forward under the bed of the river. He constructed a triplex protecting wall round the opening of sufficient strength and height to defy the combined effect of wind and tide, raised his coal, and loaded coasting vessels of light draught from the pit head. There was also a land shaft down which curious visitors were conducted, and then, to their no small consternation brought to the surface apparently far out at sea. A tradition exists that James VI. himself underwent this alarming ordeal, and shook in his Royal shoes when his erudite head emerged above the waste of waters. But, in process of years the surface seams were exhausted, and other localities entering into competition under more favourable conditions the trade declined. A comparatively recent attempt to revive it by sinking a shaft on Preston Island, where a seam out-cropped, proved a great financial failure. A few years ago an effort to pump out the mone with a view to the resumption of work was equally futile. Next to coal mining the

Manufacture of Salt

by distillation was perhaps the most lucrative industry in Culross. If not actually originating in the same fertile brain, the trade received its first important impetus from the energetic Sir George Bruce. We learn from the narrative of John Taylor, the "Water Poet", who visited the district in 1618, that the output of white salt was then about 100 tons per week, which not only supplied Scotland, but was largely exported to England and the Continent. Here, again, misfortune lay in wait. The development of the rock-salt mining industry sapped the vitality of the old distillery trade, and the burgh received another backset. Sir Robert Preston, in his praiseworthy efforts to revive the prosperity of the old town, also attempted salt manufacture. The conspicuous ruins of Preston Isle, so often mistaken for ecclesiastical remains, are tangible evidence of his failure. The thirds distinguished occupation of Culross was

Girdle-Making,

An employment monopolised under Royal authority, by the Incorporated Hammermen of the town. When oatcakes formed the staple bread of Scotland every household had its girdle, yet under the rigorous tyranny of the Guild, the output was restricted and the price artificially inflated in defiance of economic law. Even in its period of greatest activity the worm was already at root of the tree. National prosperity changed the social habits of the people. Wheaten bread came into more general use, and professional bakers created a taste for the leavened loaf of modern commerce, which was baked in an oven. The monopoly in 1725, after extensive litigation, was declared illegal by the Court of Session, and, most disastrous of all, the Carron Company

produced a cast-iron girdle at a price that denied competition, was established in 1760. The industry perished beyond hope of resuscitation, and with the peculiarities and privileges of old Culross.

Now an air of dreamy stillness broods over the ancient town, a note of hoary old sighs through its narrow, tortuous causeways and around its steep crow-stepped gables – the threnody of a departed race. The encircling orchards blaze in summer bloom, the lapping wavelets flash in opalescent sheen, but the imagination is overwhelmed by the pathos of mortality: -

“As by St Serf’s lone tomb arise,
The dirges by the sea”.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1899,

THE VILLAGE OF TOWNHILL AND ITS COLLIERIES.

The village of Townhill is a suburb of Dunfermline. It is within the municipal boundary of the burgh, but outwith the Parliamentary burgh. Previous to 1838 the burgh worked its own minerals, and the old houses which are to-day being denounced as unfit for habitation were built at the close of the last century and early in the present century, for the accommodation of the workmen at the colliery. At the time when the burgh played the role of coalmasters, the pits were not particularly profitable concerns. This was due to the fact that the management in these far off days contented themselves with digging away at the rough steam coal seams near the surface, and this steam-coal sent to Dunfermline and other markets did not realise the same price as the household coal sent in from other collieries. In 1883 the district was visited by a coal company from the West of Scotland. The members of the company were convinced that there was plenty of the finest coals at a lower level than had been touched in the "Jessie" and other pits, and they accordingly took a lease of the minerals from the burgh of Dunfermline. The first Company did not meet with the success they had anticipated. They confined themselves very much to the southern and northern parts of the coalfield. A pit named

"The Crawford"

was commenced to be sunk in the right part of the field; but before the operation had gone far, the works changed hands . . . falling into the hands of John Christie & Company, of the Devon Iron Works, near Alloa. Messrs Christie & Coy., concentrated a good deal of energy on the Crawford Pit. The pit was a huge one for the times, and it was fitted up with all the best machinery of the day. It was rightly anticipated that the water would be very heavy, and a great heavy beamed pumping engine and a smaller pumping engine were erected. The work was carried through successfully by the manager, Mr W. Mungall, the father of Provost Mungall of Cowdenbeath. Mr Peddie came after Christie, and then followed Messrs La Cour & Watson. Mr Watson is the chairman of the Townhill Colliery company, Ltd., of to-day. Mr John Stevenson came to the village as managing partner to La Cour & Watson in 1866. from this date the minerals began to be developed to an enormous extent, and the colliery became one of the best in the Western District of Fifeshire. A capital hold of the Dunfermline Splint and Five Feet coals was obtained, and from a few hundred pounds a year, the revenue from materials rose upwards of £1000.

The Royalties.

The following table shows what the company have paid for Royalties since 1870: -

1870	£2697. 7s 11d
1871	£2935.19s 6d
1872	£3510.11s 1d
1873	£3690.17s 0d
1874	£3690.11s 6d
1875	(
1876	(£7936. 6s 0d
1877	(
1878	£3327. 7s 10d
1879	£3394. 0s 0d
1880	£4211. 0s 3d
1881	£3722. 3s 1d
1882	£3118. 11s 5d
1883	£2900. 19s 4d
1884	£2270. 14s 8d
1885	£2184. 9s 10d
1886	£1707. 16s 1d
1887	£2587. 10s 0d
1888	£1633. 13s 4d
1889	£2666. 3s 4d
1890	£4330. 19s 9d
1891	£3770. 4s 11d
1892	£2135. 6s 11d
1893	£3058. 9s 8d
1894	£1623. 3s 5d
1895	£1605. 11s 8d
1896	£1724. 3s 4d
1897	£2043. 5s 11d
1898	£2866. 2s 11d

Coal getting was abandoned in the Crawford Pit many years ago; but for a good many years the huge pumping engine was kept going to keep the adjoining pits free of water. On coal getting in the lower seam being suspended, the Crawford engine was stopped, and the water rose in the shaft to a point about 35 fathoms from the surface. While the engine was dismantled the pumps and all the fittings were allowed to remain in the shaft until within a month ago. Mr Leitch, the commercial manager of the colliery, came to the conclusion that

The Old Pipes

and gearing could be turned to good account, and under the supervision of Mr Boreland, the underground manager, the work of raising the 35 fathoms of pipes which were clear of the water, was commenced. A new pithead frame was erected,

and strong talking got, and all the pipes and gearing from the surface to the top of the water have been got out without a single accident of any kind. There are 27 pipes, each weighing 27 cwts., a clack-piece, weighing at least 2 tons, a big working barrel, a plunger, and all the rods, &c., lying at the mouth of the pit – the whole forming a very valuable recovery from the flooded pit. The engine-house of the Crawford Pit bears the date 1846, and the pumps must have been fitted in the pit about this time. We congratulate Mr Leitch and Mr Boreland on the success of their undertaking. Perhaps one of the most gratifying features connected with the recovery of the treasure from the deep is the fact that no accident of any kind occurred. The raising of the 35 fathoms of heavy pipes out of a pit in which there is 35 fathoms of water must be held to be nothing short of a conquest.

No. 6 Pit,

which is situated close to the main road, and almost opposite Lilliehill House, is one of the pits which was abandoned some years ago. Considerable stretches of Eight Feet coal and Cairncubie Splint have recently been discovered in this pit. A brand new pithead frame has been erected at the pit, siding accommodation has been made, and all is activity at the pit, which for years was surrounded by the furniture common to abandoned shafts. The Eight Feet seam is of a very fine quality, and the Cairncubie Splint is equal to the best household ever wrought by the Townhill Company. A very considerable output of coal is being obtained from the refitted pit, and everything points to an increased output at no distant date. The demand for both classes of coals for household purposes is such at present that the output is disposed of daily as it is brought to the surface.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1899.

GLIMPSES OF LIFE IN DUNFERMLINE IN THE OLDEN TIME.

OLIVER CROMWELL AND CHARLES FIRST.

The Glasgow - Dunfermline Association.

The Glasgow - Dunfermline Association have arranged for a series of winter lectures, and in the Christian Institute, Bothwell Street, Glasgow, on Wednesday evening, Mr And. S Cunningham, Dunfermline, delivered the inaugural lecture of the course. Mr Cunningham chose as his theme, "Glimpses of Burgh Life in Dunfermline in the Olden Time".

Mr W Penman, one of the hon presidents of the Association, occupied the chair, and was supported by Messrs James Clark, president; And. S. Cunningham, secretary; A Macnab, treasurer; Mr Robert Leitch, Littlehill; and others. There was a large attendance of natives of Dunfermline resident in Glasgow present.

The Chairman said that it gave him very much pleasure to preside and to see that so many Dunfermline friends - he was delighted to see so many ladies present - had come to listen to Mr Cunningham's lecture. He felt sure they would all enjoy a lecture which would deal with the town of which they were all so proud.

Mr Cunningham, who was received with applause, said - In "The Life of Oliver Cromwell", which Mr John Morley has commenced in the 'Century Magazine' for November, he reminds us that Cromwell gave his eldest son the following advice - "'I would have him in mind and understand business; read a little history; study the mathematics and cosmography. These are good in subordination to the things of God ... These fit for public service, for which man was born. Take heed of our inactive, vain spirit. Recreate yourself with Sir Walter Raleigh's history; its a body of history, and will add much more to your understanding than fragments of story." I think that Cromwell was right in insisting on some little attention being paid to history, and if he was right, surely there is no department of history which should be studied more than that immediately connected with the city, the town, or the village in which we were born. The town of mushroom growth does not, it is true, provide a tempting field for the student of history; but Dunfermline is not a town of mushroom growth. Dunfermline appears in history as far back as the days of Malcolm III. and the saintly Queen Margaret,

'When wild in woods the noble savage ran.'

And in consequence of the antiquity of the town, its history forms a noteworthy contribution to the history of Scotland.

The Palace and its Residenters.

The Palace, whose ruins are with us to this day, and the Abbey were founded in the eleventh century. This noble pile completed in the year 1100 was partially destroyed by Edward I. in 1305. The damage was made good, and the Palace once more became a kingly habitation. After the restoration, the building echoed and re-echoed to the feet of royalty from this date until the beginning of the seventeenth century. Robert the Bruce's son, David II was born within the walls of the Palace, and David and his Queen Johanna were resident for some time in Dunfermline. Robert III. and Queen Annabella Drummond took up their residence in the city, and their second son, James I. of Scotland, was born in the Palace in 1394. James III. made considerable extensions to the Palace, and James IV. was a frequent visitor to the royal residence by the "crooked stream." James V. perhaps did more in restoration work at the Palace than his immediate predecessors. James VI. was particularly fond of Dunfermline, and the unfortunate Charles I. was born in the city on 19th November 1600. Poor Charles, he spoke of Dunfermline as "his ain toon," and when Cromwell beheaded him on January 1649 there was much weeping among all classes of the community, because of the violent death of one of "its ain bairns."

Cromwell and Charles I.

A statue was unveiled at Westminster yesterday, and Lord Rosebery, in an appreciation of the Protector, made reference to the execution of Charles I. His Lordship went on to say that the execution was an act which, "I think was barely justified by the circumstances; but I think one or two facts are forgotten, if they are known to the critics of the memoirs of Cromwell. The first is that it was no willing act on the part of Cromwell. He endeavoured, as far as he could, to work with the King, and it was not till he found the King would accept no position short of the absolute ideal he had formed of himself of Kingship that Cromwell was compelled to desist from the attempt. You must recollect too, that he found out by painful experience that Charles held no measure with his opponents; that he was in no respect to be trusted; and also, we must remember, what is now better known, that it is not possible for a feudal monarch to be his constitutional successor. The two things cannot combine in one man. If you were to have a constitutional sovereign you were bound, in one way or another, to get rid of Charles I., but it seems to me that, as a stroke of policy, means might have been adopted much more gentle, which would have prevented an act which, if it was in essence a crime - if crime you call it - was a political blunder." Lord Rosebery then went on to discuss whether or not Cromwell was, as is often alleged, a "psalm singing old humbug who cut off the King's head," or a "practical mystic" - the most formidable of all patriots. It does not lie within my province to-night to discuss whether Cromwell was a hypocrite or the greatest and best of Englishmen of the time; but met as we are here, a body of men and women who can speak of Dunfermline as Charles did, as "our ain toon", I think we may be pardoned homologating Lord Rosebery's view that Cromwell might have found a less violent method of punishing our Royal native than that of cutting off his head. But let

me return to Dunfermline. Charles II. kept his court for some time in the city of Dunfermline. From this date the city practically ceased to be the abode of royalty. But I have not come to Glasgow to-night to linger over Dunfermline's early connection with royalty. My theme is "Glimpses of Burgh Life in Dunfermline in the Olden Time." Dr Charles Rogers once said "The history of Scotland is not to be found in the abode of her kings ... We must search the cot rather than the castle." Well, I have said all I am going to say about Dunfermline "Castle", and I am going to give you some "Glimpses of Dunfermline in ye woodes," a peep of social life in the ancient of days, as seen in the pages of the Kirk-Session records, and the records of the Town Council. Through painstaking industry of the late Dr Henderson, the author of "The Annals of Dunfermline," and others, my task has been made a comparatively easy one.

The Dignity of the Office of Councillor.

It appears from one of the earliest minutes of the Town Council extant that at least some of the members felt, like David of old, that they were engaged in a great work. Here is a minute dated as far back as 1639, in which unmannerly Councillors were severely rebuked: -

The whilk day for the unmanerlie and indecent formes used by some of the Counsellors of this burghe, wha, after they are set and inclosed in the Counsell hous to use and exercise their office anent the deciding and concluding of all matters belonging to this place and functions, with thair garrielitie and loqucitie, trouble and molest this said Counsell inrequirit that it seemeth rayther ane barbaric court that ane Counsell, not befitting men of such ane grave office. It is statute and ordainit, whatsoever Counsellor of the said burghe sal speak, reason, or give his voice and voet in Counsell frae this time forth coming, sall pay at that sametime XII.'s for ilk faizure totis quities.

The minutes are silent as to the operation of this "Statute", and this leads one to infer that the threat of a fine of 12s had a corrective effect on the "unmannerlie," and made them feel that they were not to enter the Council "hous" as if they were grinning at each other through horses collars. In view of this statute no surprise need be expressed at the fact that the Town Council of Dunfermline has always stood well among the Town Councils of Scotland, and has seldom indulged in the upheavals and the "scenes" common to some burghs in the "Kingdom".

How the Poor and the Unfortunate Were Helped.

In far-off days the Kirk Sessions and the Town Councils had the power of pit and of gallows, and in some of the extracts I am going to give, you will be surprised at the summary way alleged delinquents were punished. Yet amidst all the persecution, records of good deeds are continually cropping up. Here is a Kirk Session minute dated 1641: -

That day, ordains a collection to be intimate the next Sabbath to Laurence Wilson wha had his hous and all his plenishings brunt, qlk was done be the minister out of the

pupett the Sabbath following - viz. be james legat and thomas elder at the kirk doore 9 lbs. and be mr James readdie and jon bennett at the Kirk style 21 lbs. total 30 lbs. qlk was delyuervit to ye said Jon Wilson for his present releefe.

And here is another minute of the same year: -

That day, yr was given to marjorie Sanderis to help hir in hir voyage to Ireland 4 dollors,..as also to Ket elder to help to cure hir brokin arm, and to help hir in hir voyage to England 4 lbs.

You will see from these acts, that neither insurance societies nor Compensation Acts had been dreamt of, the surplus church funds were put to the best use - the severe yet practical economy of St James being believed in - "Faith without works is dead." Here is another minute which illustrates further the practical turn aid took: -

This day, David Mirtoun, in baldrig and Gilbert Jonstoun sometyme toun officer, gave in a supplication, shewing yt yr hors qr by they and yr faimlies had yr Lyvliehood are dead, and supplicating fr help to buy ane hors againe - the session considering yr great necessitie appoint intimation to be made the nixt sabbath for a contribution to be collected at the kirk styll forym, the sabbath yr after following - (17 lib 3s was collected and handed to them by Mr Mercer).

The Kirk-Session of Dunfermline did not by any means confine their charity to people resident within the parish. Here is a minute dated February 1663, which shows that applications for help from neighbouring parishes were favourably considered: -

This day intimation was made of a contribution to have collected heir ye nixt Sabbath, as is done in the rest of the kirks of the Presbyterie for Wm Flokart in the paroch of Inverkeithing who had all his staks of corn burnt; on Sabbath Feby 8th 20 lib or y"by was collectie for ye said Wm Flokart.

Following closely on this minute there is an entry which reads as follows: -

The collectrs for the brig at Cants dam reported (to the Session) yt they had collectid abut xi lib 5s, which Patrick Sanders has in custody.

The sum handed for purely charitable purposes seem to have been collected at the church doors on the Sundays; but it is apparent from the last minute quoted that the collection for Cants dam bridge had been made by some other means - possibly by the buttonholing of all who appeared at the turnstyle of the church or by a door to door collection.

The Marriage Customs of the Seventeenth Century.

In those days in which we live only what the correspondents of society newspapers write of as "fashionable marriages" take place in our churches; but in days gone by the church was the scene of marriages of all classes of the community. By the twenty-second General Assembly, held in March 1571, it was ruled "that all marriages be

solemnly in the face of the congregation," and the practice was to celebrate the union at the close of the morning service. A Dunfermline Kirk-Session minute dated 1641 throws some light on the custom of old: -

That day, Alexr Drysdale, merchant, desyrit a seat in the Kirk for his dochr to heir god's word and yr fore is licentate to ye session to caus mak a new furme to be set next be fore ye pulpit (qr the brides and bridegrooms yt day yt they are mariet uses to sit to be possesst be the said alexr, his dochtr in all time coming.

From this minutes it will be noticed that the ceremonies connected with the church marriages of to-day are very different from the celebrations and the customs of 1641. To-day the bride and the bridegroom enter the church late, after all the guests are assembled, the knot is tied and at the conclusion of a "fully choral service" the couple are spirited away to other climes, and leave the marriage party to entertain themselves. In the olden time the bride and the bridegroom were exhibited in a "reserved" seat near the pulpit throughout the ordinary forenoon service; and here the "happy pair" could not slip each other a peppermint, nor cast a sly glance, without being observed. In the seat the great ordeal of the day did not end. The marriage was "made" at the close of the service, not "in heaven", but, as a minute tells us, in the "face of the congregation". In 1674 the minds of the members of the Kirk Session of Dunfermline seem to have been exercised a good deal over the fact that the brides and bridegrooms were inclined upon the eventful days to come to church a little late. Brides, naturally took longer to get into their wedding-gown than they did to get into their ordinary church frock, and so frequently did the happy pairs turn up late, that the Kirk Session ordained that "if brides and bridegrooms come not into the kirk before the first psalm be closed they shall pay twelve shillings or more as yet the minister shall please." I have not as yet stumbled across any Dunfermline minute ordaining the bride and bridegroom to return to church to an afternoon service after marriage, but a St Andrew's minute, the Kirk Session complains to the Town Council of the "grete abuse usit be new mariet persons in violation of the Sabbat day, and inspeacial that the day of their marriage afternwise they desirt not to hering of the doctrine."

Selling Drink on Sundays.

Kirk Sessions in the days of old dealt with all classes of offences. They did not require special Acts of Parliament for dealing with offenders engaged in the drink and other trades. Here is a minute dated 1647: -

That day, it is statut and actit that if christiane Law, brewster shill be convict heireftir in absenting himself fra the Kirk on the Sabbath day, and in selling thereon in tyme of preaching or utherweyes imoderatlie before or eftir preaching - And in masking drink anie tyme that day, - And in intertenying, and holding in hir hous of ane scanalous drunken lown, that she stand at the tron on a Settirday, or any mercat day betwix 10 and 12 hors before noone wth a paper on hir browe showing hir notorious scandall, to the example of utheris, referrin the executn to the magistrates, - And yrefitir yt she shall mak hir publick repentance on the sabbath before noone in face of the hail congregatn before the pulpett.

The Kirk Session did not by any means confine their discipline to the drinksellers who entertained "drunken lowns" about them on Sundays. They kept a watchful eye on the "lowns", and they passed the following statute: -

This day it is statute and ordaint that whomsom in this parish shall be found fra the Kirk on the Sabbath day, drinking in tyme of diverse service, of preaching or prayers, the drinkers to pay ten shillings and the seller of yr of 20s. and both to makyr public repentance before the haill congregation, qlk was intmat the next Sabbat.

If a vintner in our day contravenes the conditions of his certificate on a Sunday, he alone is held responsible, and the man to whom the drink is supplied is allowed to go Scot free. It will be noticed from the minute read that in the seventeenth century both seller and buyer were placed in the dock, and each had to share the consequences - a very sensible arrangement, and an arrangement which, I think, the Parliament of to-day, amidst all its complex proposals, might re-introduce as an expedient which would have a beneficial effect on the Sunday drouths, who must be a great annoyance to sellers.

The Penalty for Slander.

The old ecclesiastical authorities had a terrible abhorrence of slander, and the honour of the living and the dead was guarded with a jealousy which at times developed into a severe form of persecution. It is only fair to the Kirk Session to say that the seventeenth century tongue does not seem to have been a tongue that was easily bridled, however, Almost weekly, if not daily, the august body was called together for the purpose of considering slanderous complaints and the ugly tittle-tattle of the street corner. Here are two minutes which will sufficiently illustrate this form of church government: -

That day - it was suffiecientlie proven before the Session, - that Jonet Wely spouse of Rot wallis baxter, had slandered grissell walwood spouse to Jon alisone, wright, calling hir 'white bird' and heirby also slandering the dead qhrby the said Jonet was ordaintit to pay 4 lib, qlk she did, and to mak hir publick repentance before the pulpit on a sabbath aftir sermon befornoon, qlk she did the 15th March instant.

Margt Johnstone, being found guiltie of drunkenness, scolding and slandering of hir nytbors (she being oftymes and ordinarlie so found) was ordaint to be put in the theeves hole till Wednesday next qlk is the mercat day, and yr to be brot forthe at 10 ho in the day to stand at the tron twa hours yr afftr with a paper on hir browe, showing hes notorious faults, ect.

In these modern days many slanderers and drunkards feel that the worst feature of their punishment is the fact that they are honoured with a place in the "At the Bar" column of a newspaper. In the seventeenth century offenders were compelled to be the publishers of their shame. It will be seen from the minute just read that Margaret Johnstone was ordained to stand at the Tron two hours with "a paper on hir browe," and this paper bore a copy of the charge of which she had been found guilty. Here is another minute which also shows a severe form of punishment: -

1648, 5th March - That day it is ordaint yt margtt nicolsone, spouse to alex Dempster, the fiddler, shall stand, and the branks on hir mouth, the next Friday, being the mercat day, twa hors before noone, for hir common scolding and drunkenness an yt to be public example to utheris, etc.

Alexander Dempster was one of the best known men in Dunfermline. Penny weddings were extremely popular in the city and district, and Alexander and his fiddle were considered to be part of the furniture of every wedding.

Conferences and Snuffing in the Church.

Old men and women came from all parts of the district to the Dunfermline Abbey, and in church now and again, old farmers and millers ventured to chat with one another, to compare notes, and to discuss the features of the harvest and other fields of the week. An adjournment seems even to have been made to the "remote" parts of the church, and as the "cracks" went on the snuff mull was sent round. The Kirk Session very soon took the matter up, and they passed the following Act: -

Andra Thomson, bellman, is ordaint to tak notice of those who in communion yle in tyme of preaching and aither tymes of God's service has yr common discourses and conferences and tak yr sneising tobatto in the most remott and secret pairt of ye sd yle whar they think they will not be seen, and ye sd andro is ordaint to delate such yt order may be taine with yame.

With a great many of the statutes which were passed by this session of autocrats, we in those days of freedom and of justice can have but little sympathy, but I think that we must all agree that the Act just read was one. If amateur snuffers had been allowed to adjourn with the "old stragglers" to a "remott" place in the church to indulge in "ye sneising tobatto", the sounds which would come from the amateur might have proved a little awkward for the preacher and the precenter who were in these days the "reader of the line".

No Preaching and No Session.

Every now and again minutes are cropping up from which it appears that people were admonished for non-attendance at church, and yet the Session allowed the flimsiest of excuses to keep them from the performance of their own duties. On 15th July 1651, for instance, the following entry occurs: -

No preaching nor session - the Minister being at the General Assemblie at St androes.

Here are other extracts: -

22 June 1652 - No Session (this day) was because of the fair in the toune.

3 Aug. 1652 - No Session because of Lambas fair at Inverkeithing.

The Session evidently had a weakness for attending fairs. It would be interesting to know if the accounts of the fairs bore that these institutions were under the patronage of the Kirk Session of Dunfermline.

The Burgh Prize Saddle.

The "hat and ribbon race" of centuries is to this day run on Lammas Fair at Inverkeithing; but it must not for a moment be assumed that the ancient burgh has always had a monopoly of the historic race. Dunfermline could once boast of a saddle and a hat and a ribbon race, as the following minute, dated 1702 of the Town Council will show: -

The said day the Counsell ordaineed that the thesaurer to put out a saddle on the toun's account to be ridden on the morn after July mercat, betwix the toungreen and buckieburn, back and fore, ye unput; each horse 1 lib. 10s, the horse not to be above 2 lib. sterling value, and ordained the thesaurer also to bring a bonnet and a pair of stockings, to be exposed for a footrace on the same ground immediately after the horse race, with ribbons to the bonnet.

It appears that the saddle race was kept up for some years, a minute dated August 1707, authorised the treasurer to pay six pounds for the saddle ridden for in July previous. The price of the horse was not to be over 5 lib., while the saddle cost 6 lib. This means that the fittings of a "mount" were to be £1 more than the horse.

The Battle of Pitreavie.

The battle of Pitreavie was fought on July 1651, and here are three minutes which are worth quoting in full: -

17 July: - 17 July 1651, being a thursday, cromwells armie landit heir, - Who on the sabbath yrefrir being the 20 day of the ad month, battell being beside pitreavie, killed and cut manie of or men, robbed and plunderit all. Everie man that was able fledd for a tyme; so yt yr could be no meeting for Discipline this space.

12 Aug.: - The boord and seatts of the session hous, and the Kirk boxe being all broken, and the haill money in the said boxe being all plunderit and taken away be Cromwells men - It is thot fitt yt the session hous be repaired and the boxe mendit: - And thairfore Thomas Elder horne wryt to doe the same, as also mak a new boxe to gather the offering.

19 Aug.: - The session hous being repaired, and the boxe mendit, and no money to pay the wrytt, his payment is delayed till it be gottin.

Cock-Fighting in the Churchyard.

The old city fathers did not by any means confine themselves to the sport they could draw from an occasional horse race to Buckieburn, or a foot race over the same course. Dr Henderson tells us that from an old MS. he finds that in 1705 cock-fighting was one of the popular amusements of the time. The barbarous sport was introduced into Dunfermline on the day before Yule, in 1707, and perhaps the worse feature connected with the inauguration was the fact that the losers of the sport chose the sacred precincts of the Abbey churchyard for the battle ground. After the first year the Yule fight took place in the Queen's House - a house which stood near the Abbey, and which derived its name from the fact that it had been restored, and was long the residence of Queen Anne of Denmark. The house was a special gift which James VI., according to the custom of the times, presented to her Majesty on the morning after marriage. For many years the cock-fights took place in the large room of this house, and the expenses were paid by a charge of admission, the front seats being 6d, the second seats 3d, and the back seats 1d. The eighteenth century had almost reached its close before the promoters of this brutal sport had heard the walls of the building crying out against such desecration. The student of the customs of these ancient days cannot help being struck with the inconsistency of the rulers. The fact that the cock-fights were tolerated in the churchyard shows that the authorities had not been troubled much over the fitness of things, and we find that the very time that the fights had become an established Handsel Monday institution, they are passing Acts such as follows: -

This day the Counsell instructed the constables to sease all cursers and swearers, and all that shall be found committing ryots either by night or day, and ordains ye bailies to give ye constable apprehender a shilling for his pains of ye first end of ye fine: also, to informant all vagabonds who come to reside in ye toun without testificals.

A Peculiar Burial Custom.

If the Magistrates and the Town Council, at times, rejoiced with those that rejoiced, it appears from the minute dated 1708 that they also wept with those that wept. Here is the minute: -

The which day the Counsell taking into their consideration yt it has been ancient custome of this burgh at burials to invite ye Magistrates, Counsell, and yr burgers up to ye burialls immediately before lifting of the corps, and yt ye said custome is both uneasie to the people who must wait a long time on ye street till ye Magistrate come out, and besides make confusion when too many people goes up to the burial house, considering yt ye best burgh in the nation has left ye custome and the Counsell yr for, for avoiding confusion and observing more decency at such occasions, have and herby do and resolve and enact, yt in all time coming, no Magistrate, Counsellor, or burger, (tho invited) go up to ye buriall house immediately before lifting ye corps in time coming, except they be near relations of the defunct.

When miners Were Slaves.

Away back in the eighteenth century the miners of Scotland were slaves, and in those

days coal working was carried out by the Corporation of the burgh of Dunfermline for behoof of the community. The miners working to the Corporation of the burgh of Dunfermline were as much slaves as the miners of the private individual. A minute which is dated 1713, throws some light on the customs of the age. We are told that on the date indicated the Earl of Rothes sent a letter to the Town Council of Dunfermline, asking for the loan of two colliers, when the Council "warranted the Bailies to lend to the Earl, David Murgain and George Brown upon the Earl's land, to restore them on demand without expense. And in the case of Lady Pittercrief, want William Watson, warrants the Bailies to lend Watson to her." The Earl of Rothes here referred to is undoubtedly the seventh Earl of Rothes, who was a favourite of Charles the Second. It will be seen from the minute that the miners were not only held to be slaves in the mines in which they were employed, but they were subject to the worst conditions of slavery, namely, to be bought and sold and even lent by autocrat to autocrat. The minute shows that two men were sent to Leslie and a third was held in readiness for the commands of the Lady of Pittencrief. In 1701, Pittencrief belonged to Colonel John Forbes, and the chances are that the lady referred to was his wife. Trafficking in - giving out to loan - flesh and blood in the manner indicated must appear to the modern mind as one of the worst features of the age, but it may appease your wrath a bit if I tell you that if a city father of old could do harsh things with the miners, they could also do a graceful act. Here is a minute which shows that the slaves were not only allowed to marry, but that the slave holders opened their heart and their purse strings, and gave the slaves something to marry with: -

27th March, 1754. - This day the Council ordered William Dickie, late Treasurer, to advance to James Wilson, one of the Town's colliers, who is just now about to be married, Twenty Shillings Sterling money, being what the Toun usually give their workmen on that occasion.

Now this was not an isolated case - the minute closing with the significant words "being what the Toun usually gives."

A Connection With Stirling - The Dunfermline And Stirling Hangman.

Stirling and Dunfermline have had a political connection since the Union in 1707, and it is evident from a minute which bears the date 1751, that the two burgh were on the most friendly terms, and were not against giving each other assistance in the work of putting down lawlessness. The minute goes on to say: -

Which day the councill authorized, and hereby authorize the two Bailies, in the name of the Toun, to give Receipt to the Magistrates and Town Council of Stirling for their Hangman in order to scourge Margaret Kilpatrick and Grizell Ferguson thro this Toun on Friday next for theft and resett of theft, agreeable to a Sentence of the Bailies of this burgh on 20th September last; and further the council order Alexander Robertson, Andrew Rolland and Thomas Fisher, three of the Toun's Militia, along with Robert Meldrum, officer, to repair to Stirling on Wednesday first and bring the hangman here on Thursday thereafter. As the Magistrates and Council of Stirling have already agreed to send him on receipt as above mentioned; and after the sentence shall be

executed, the Council order Robert Alice, Thomas Hoggan, and Robert Henderson, other three of the Toun's Militia, with David Christie, officer, to take him back again, and deliver him safe to the Toun of Stirling.

Previous to this Dunfermline could boast of a hangman. His name was John Cummin, and it appears from a minute of Inverkeithing Town Council that he had gone to a London Hospital to get "cured of ane sair leg.", and that doubtless accounts for the fact that the services of the Stirling hangman had to be called in. What strikes one as being peculiar in reading this minute is the formidable escorts the Council sent to bring and to return the hangman. Three Militiamen and an officer went to Stirling, and the same number of officers and men were appointed to take the dignitary back and "deliver him safe to the Toun of Stirling." This last sentence of the minute suggests a reason for the necessity of four attendants. The hangman and the scourgers of these times were not men who would be held in high esteem, and when they travelled from burgh to burgh ample provision would require to be made for their protection and safety. There is more in the Inverkeithing Council minutes about the Dunfermline hangman than there is in the Dunfermline minutes. It appears from an Inverkeithing minute that for years the minds of the Council had been much exercised over a proposal to join Dunfermline in the upkeep of a hangman. It was ultimately agreed in 1732 to join Dunfermline, because for some time the Magistrates had passed sentences for crimes of vice, and they could not get the sentences "put into execution". The sum agreed to be paid to the Dunfermline hangman fund was £3. At a meeting of the Inverkeithing Council held two years after the agreement, an account for £6 was lodged on behalf of Dunfermline Town Council, being two years salary. It was agreed to have "no regard to the Dunfermline demand," to "get free, if possible, of the two years salary," and to intimate that the burgh would have "no more use for the executioner". The latter clause of the resolution was arrived at because the hangman left the country - gone to London. Why the Inverkeithing Council wanted to scuttle out of their responsibilities in connection with the hangman, I am not in the position to say. Cummin was the last man who held office in Dunfermline as hangman. Prisoners found guilty of capital charges were, after his departure for London, conveyed to Edinburgh, and as the minutes already quoted show, "scourging" and other minor punishments were carried out by the Stirling hangman.

The Duties of a Bailie.

Before I leave the Stirling - Dunfermline incident it may be interesting to state that a few years before the incident, Robert Meldrum, one of the burgh officers named, got himself into an awkward scrape. A minute tells us: -

Bailie Scotland laid before the Council a written complaint against Robert Meldrum, town officer, complaining of a horrid insult and indignity made and offered by said Robert Meldrum against the said Bailie Scotland on Wednesday last, when the Bailie went civilly to the Tollbooth to curb some disturbance that he heard was among the prisoners. Meldrum was dismissed from his office and ordered to be prosecuted.

The minutes are silent as to the form of prosecution which was meted out to the offending officer in addition to being dismissed, but it is evident that a reconciliation

had taken place, and that Meldrum had been restored to his post. A glance at the minute which puts Meldrum's offence on record cannot fail to impress one with the idea that the duty of the Bailie in the middle of the eighteenth century was arduous and difficult. The prisoners seem to have been huddled together in one room in the Tollbooth, and the Bailie, hearing a noise while on what was no doubt his official rounds, boldly entered the building "to curb the disturbance", and it was while he was curbing the disturbance that he was subjected to the "horrid insult" by Meldrum.

The Evils of Tea Drinking.

In these days when grocers sell a heavier quantity of sweets daily than they do oatmeal, it may be interesting to some of you to know that upwards of 150 years ago the city fathers were apprehensive of the dangers of an excessive use of tea, and we are told: -

"There was laid before the Council by John Wilson, commissioner of the Royale burrows, anent the preventing the Universal and Excessive use of tea and other foreign spirits in order to obtain their opinion anent the same." etc. The Council ordered the bailies on 31st August to write to "the Clerk of the burrows that it is the Council's mind and opinion that the putting a stop to the use of tea and foreign spirits as mentd in yt act is for the interest of the country if proper methods can be fallen upon to prevent same."

The Patriotic Spirit of the Times.

At a time when war is raging in the Transvaal, and when appeals are being made for us to exhibit the patriotic spirit of our forefathers, no excuse need be offered for giving you a sample of the spirit of the old Council of Dunfermline displayed in times of stress and of danger. During Queen Anne's illness in 1714 the Council made up a list of the "fencible inhabitants" of the burgh to prevent and apprehend disturbance "if Her Majesty was carried off," and in 1715, when the Jacobite rebellion arose, the Council passed the following minute: -

The Counsell, taking to their consideration the hazard this town may be in if the countrymen loose by threatened invasion, and that it is very fit the town be provided in powder and lead; they therefore ordered bailie Wisone and William Stevinson to buy one hundred pound of weight of powder and six hundred pound weight of lead as soon as possible. The said say the Counsell approved of the bailies their distributing the town powder and lead among such inhabitants as had arms.

Just two months after this minute was passed, Dunfermline was invaded by a Jacobite detachment. Although the "fencibles" had, previous to the invasion, "got in arms to defend King George," no conflict seems to have taken place between the local soldiers and the Highlanders, and it was left to Colonel Cathcart to strike a blow at Dunfermline and the King. "A fast day was kept on 7th June, for the suppression of the unnatural rebellion the preceeding year," and it will be seen from the following minute that the town had been put to a good deal of loss by the Jacobite "rising": -

The Counsell appoints the bailies to write to Buchan to see if he can recover the money lost by the toun by the rebels, and the expense the toun has been at by the detachment of His Majesties forces that lay there.

Robbing and Stealing.

In 1723 the Town Council were overwhelmed with complaints of robbing and stealing, and they were compelled to meet and pass the following statute: -

The said day the Councill taking to yt consideration ye prest state of ye country by reason of robbing and stealing and that many ye inhabitants have been desyering yt for some time a Guard of ye neighbourhood might be kept nightly. They yrfor appointed yt ye magistrates appoint a guard of ten men to be kept nightly in ye Guard House in the meall mercat and yt ye toun furnish ym wth coall and candle and yt ye magistrates name the Captain of the Guard out of ye number of ten to be on Guard each night.

The Dress of 1752.

In his "Annals" Dr Henderson gives us a copy of an old MS. note he had discovered on the dress of 1752. The note goes on to say: -

The dress of the men in the town and district was very plain and homespun. Beginning at the tap, it was covered with a large broad bonnet; then came a gravit; then a terrible big slouching coat decorated with great buttons, coming down below the knees; then a large pull of a waist coat; then came the gun-mouthed breeks tied at the knees. Below "were rig and furrow stockings; then came the well roomed shoon, held together by either buckles or clasps; then came the six feet long walking sticks." The women wore plain gowns and short gowns, plaids and wrappers; mutches with great spread borders, sometimes decorated w

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1899.

A WOMAN'S STEADFASTNESS!

TRIED AS BY FIRE, YET TRUE.

*A STORY OF THE BATTLE OF PITREAVIE AND THE LOOTING OF
DUNFERMLINE ABBEY.*

By A.N.D. CUNNINGHAM.

CHAPTER I.

In the day in which our story opens the High Street of Edinburgh presented a very different aspect from what it does to-day. The street was blocked on the north and on the south by the booths of the old-time merchants, game was sold daily near the Market Cross, and slaughtered sheep were disposed of near the Tron beam. Despite all this bustle every house was occupied in the street; and it was the street in which many town and country aristocrats gloried in being residents. One Monday in September 1648 a terrific commotion arose in the street through a team of horses breaking away from the London-Edinburgh coach, and such a series of accidents happened as to bring hundreds of people, among whom were included "gentle and simple" on to the street.

From a window a little beyond the Cross the stampede and commotion which followed were closely followed by Mary Harrison.

Mary was not in a condition for mixing with a crowd, she seemed overwhelmed by a trouble with which she had been brought face to face - but this did not prevent her rushing on to the narrow, crowded street in the hope that she might be able to render first aid to the half dozen people who had been trampled down by the runaway.

On her return to the window Mary assumed the same sad countenance which she had exhibited before the runaway horses had appeared, and before many minutes had elapsed she pulled a letter from her pocket and for the hundredth time that day scanned its contents.

She had received the letter in the morning. It bore the signature of Harold Cockburn.

The letter explained Harold's reticence, and his begering "goodbye" of the previous night; but that was all that could be said for it. It ran: -

My Dearest Mary - For the present I must bid you adieu. When I won your heart and your hand I did so because I was able to present a record to which your mother could

urge no objection. In the course of a few days that record will not be without spot. I feel that the revelations which will be made will be more than I could bear in Edinburgh, and before you receive this I will have started by coach for London. What shall become of me only God knows.

The troubles, which are sure to come, are troubles in which I have had no hand. Up till a week ago I was as ignorant of the troubles as you.

For the present I send you a loving adieu - I am lovingly yours.

Harold Cockburn.

Just two days after this, Mary heard from her mother the cause of Harold's flight. The city was ringing with the news of a terrible series of frauds. John Cockburn, Harold's father, had for years, unknown to his family, been gambling, and in order to make good his losses he had drawn largely upon the trust funds which had been committed to his charge as a lawyer.

The dissipation of the trust funds had been discovered by a lawyer who had called up the funds' friends, and the indignation grew stronger and stronger, the curses became louder and louder, as the frauds came to be revealed by a process of inquiry.

So far as John Cockburn is concerned, we must leave him in the Tollbooth of the city. There he was feeling, as many wrong-doers have done, "that the way of the transgressor is hard".

And now let us return to the house in the High Street.

Mary Harrison lived with her widowed mother. The mother was the same haughty dame she was before the father died. Money had been the root of much evil with her, and she became a sordid, narrow minded creature, who forgot that she had brought nothing into the world and would take as little with her.

On the night of the Cockburn revelations, Mary Harrison's grief knew no bounds, and instead of getting the sympathy which she so much needed, the mother made the trial more difficult to bear by repeated declarations to the effect that had her advice been followed, Mary would ere now have been married to one of the richest men in Edinburgh.

To all the unkind little speeches which were rolled around the tongue like dainty morsels of revenge, Mary answered not a word.

Mary was as different in nature from her mother as the poles are asunder, and she bore her trials with all the calmness and the resignation of one who descried a gleam of light in much that was darkness.

She did not believe in the old Gospel of the sins of the father being visited on the children, and she fretted more over Harold's sudden departure than the revelations

connected with his father.

"Had he stayed at home", she repeated again and again to herself, "his sufferings would have been my sufferings, and we should have looked upon this trial as one of the things that work for good to people who mean to do well".

In these words, however, Mary soon discovered a tone something like that of a rebuke, and before many days had passed she had begun to look at things in the spirit of the words of the good old Edmund Spencer: -

"Who will not mercy unto others show,
How can he mercy ever hope to have?"

Travelling to London near the close of 1647 was very different from travelling to-day. Harold took 135 hours to accomplish the journey. He engaged a quiet little lodging in the Strand, and sitting alone in the cheerless room he found it difficult to shake off the feeling that he ought to visit Mary, and explain all he knew of the troubles which by that time would doubtless be the chief theme of conversation in the city of Edinburgh.

He dismissed the idea, however, by the words "Someday my lips may be free".

Next morning Harold was fortunate enough to secure a situation in a big mercantile office near Westminster. He soon found himself very comfortable, and before a year had elapsed he had obtained a substantial increase in salary.

At the very time, in his second year, when he expected a second increase in salary, he was handed an envelope by the cashier containing a month's salary and a note intimating that his services would not be required from that day.

There was no word of explanation: but as he left the premises he noticed one of the partners leave in company with an Edinburgh man.

This fact provided Harold with an explanation for his dismissal.

Before he had reached his lodging he had resolved to go to the office the following day and plead for an interview with his employers; but he resiled from the idea during the night, for the very good reason that his sudden departure from Edinburgh gave colour to the suspicion that he must have been in league with his factor although not actually employed in the same office.

CHAPTER II.

Harold Joins the Ironsides.

Days and weeks passed, and Harold could find no employment. "No" was the answer he received at every office he had visited, and so nervous had he become that he began to think that he was being shadowed at night by some Edinburgh friend who took a delight in negating every move he made to procure honest employment.

In the 'Parliamentary Intelligencer' he read of the execution of Charles I. in January 1649, and being alone in London with only a few shillings in his pocket and no prospect of a situation, he resolved to cast in his lot with the Cromwell party.

Next morning, Harold Cockburn became attached to the Ironsides, and served under John Lambert in some of the struggles which took place during the memorable 1649.

Harold was among the invading force which arrived on Scottish soil in July 1650. The force numbered 16,500 men, and so much had Harold distinguished himself in connection with the troubles in London that he had been raised to the position of a lieutenant.

When he first set out for Scotland he had a good many misgivings over the question of fighting against his own "kith and kin", but as he thought of the manner and double game of opposing and trying to restore Charles that was being played, he soon thrust aside the scruples which had pressed in upon him, and by the time the border was crossed he had persuaded himself that if he struck a blow for the Commonwealth he would at the same time strike a blow for Scotland.

It was in June 1660 that Charles II landed in Scotland. As Mr W.S. Douglas says, in Scotland they suppressed the insurgent supporters of the King with one hand; with the other they held out the offer to Charles II. The attempt to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds made war between England and Scotland necessary.

Cromwell declared that the Scottish Presbyterians had laid the seed of perpetual war by taking the grand enemy to their bosoms.

Cromwell, who was at the head of the English Army, found it a difficult matter to get into close quarters with Lesley, who commanded the Scotch. On 2nd September 1650, however, Lesley, goaded on by the kirk party, committed a blunder at Dunbar, and here a bloody battle was fought, with the result the Scottish army were defeated.

As the Scotch army fled in confusion, Oliver sang the cxvii psalm: - "O', praise the Lord all ye nations; praise him all ye people. For His merciful kindness as is great towards us, and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord".

The rout of the Scottish army was complete, and no young general did more to bring about the defeat than Lieutenant Cockburn, and he came in for honourable mention from Cromwell.

On the 1st January 1651, Charles II was crowned King at Scone, and from this date he became exceedingly active in connection with his Scotch campaign.

A strong army of the old Royalist type was brought together in support of the king at Stirling. Cromwell found Stirling a harder nut to crack than Dunbar, and on return from one of his expeditions in February he was overtaken by his old enemy - ague.

Writing to the Council of State anent his illness Oliver says: - "I thought I should have died of this fit of sickness; but the Lord seemeth to dispose otherwise", and to his wife he wrote: - "In these hopes I wait, and am not without expectations of a gracious return. Pray for me. Pray for me truly, I am not able as yet to write much. I am weary, and rest thine". Writing again to the Council he declares that the Lord hath been pleased to "pluck me out of the grave".

The "Great Mystic's" illness gave Charles and his followers time to call people to arms and doubtless prolonged the campaign.

While Cromwell was lying on his back Charles was visiting the garrisons along the Fife coast from St Andrew's to North Queensferry. A part of the works which the king visited was the fort of North Queensferry, which, Mr Douglas says, "seems to have been flanked by batteries on the Ferryhills".

A tussle at Tantallon, an expedition to Glasgow, and other events followed Cromwell's illness.

It was on Tuesday, July 15th, 1651, that Cromwell resolved on the most famous of his fights on the Fife side.

CHAPTER III.

The Battle of Pitreavie.

Baffled at Stirling, Cromwell determined to try his fortunes in the "Kingdom".

Colonel Overton and some 1600 men were drawn from Linlithgow and Leith, and were ordered to cross the Queensferry and assail the fort on the North bank of the Ferry Hills.

Overton's attack was attended with complete success, and on the morning of Thursday, July 17th, the Ferry Hills and all their advantages were in the hands of the English.

The English also found their way to the ancient burgh of Inverkeithing, and, as some accounts tell us, they "landed and entrenched themselves on a little hill between the North Ferry and Inverkeithing".

Lieutenant Cockburn was among the squad of Cromwell's men who had entered the burgh of Inverkeithing, and as they returned to the camp on the Ferryhills the lieutenant noticed a woman enter a house at the ferry Toll, who was the "very image" of Mary Harrison.

During the night he could not throw off the idea that the woman he had seen was none other than Mary, and while making a tour of the district at the head of a scouting party, he ventured to knock at the door and begged admittance.

And admittance he obtained. Here at the fireside of a small comfortable house sat none other than Mary Harrison.

She was not the Mary Harrison of two and a half years ago. She had suffered much by the Cockburn frauds and the departure of Harold, and the sensations connected with the frauds was followed by the death of her mother.

Left alone in the world, Mary sold off her house and effects in Edinburgh, and came over to the Ferry Toll to live with a relative.

The appearance of a soldier in uniform brought terror to the little household at the ferry Toll; but as Mary Harrison stood before Lieut. Cockburn matters were soon all put right and the scenes which followed the first explanations, we must leave to the imagination of the reader.

A "big battle is imminent" were the words of Cockburn to Mary, and his leave taking for the night was much more affectionate than the parting on the night previous to his setting out for London.

Of course Overton and his men had to run the gauntlet of the Inchgarvie and the "Sconce batteries".

Overton's success was hailed with glee by the great Dictator, and on July 19th Major General Lambert hastened over horse and footmen from South Queensferry and Blackness to the Ferry Hills.

By night Lambert had ferried over 2,500 men, and early on Sunday morning he had about 5,000 men under his command. Just as Lambert had commenced the work at the Ferry, his scouts arrived with the intelligence that the Scots were in Dunfermline, and were likely to march southwards.

In one of his despatches Lambert tell us that the Scots left their quarters in Dunfermline during the night, and had "advanced very near us".

The following minute from Dunfermline Kirk Session records may be read with interest:-

17 July: - 17 July, 1651, being a thursday, cromwells armie landit heir - Who on the sabbath yrefitir being the 20 day of the sd month, battel being beside pitreavie, killed an cutt manie of or men, robbed an pluneris all, Everis man that was able fledd for a tyme; so yt yr could be no meeting for Discipline this space.

On the Saturday night Lieutenant Cockburn paid a hurried visit to the cottage at the Ferry Toll while on patrol duty.

His friends were very much taken up about the impending battle as he was himself, and the coming struggle on the slopes of Inverkeithing formed the theme of conversation rather than the personal events of the past.

Pressed for his opinion on the result, Cockburn was to say that the struggle would be a severe one. If all went well the Ironsides would be persuing the Scots as far as Dunfermline within twenty-four hours.

A movement on the part of the troops on the hills brought about a sudden adieu, and once more Mary Harrison was overtaken by one of the sudden fits of grief to which she had been a martyr since her troubles first arose

.

The Scotch were commanded by Sir John Brown of Fordell and colonel Holborn of Menstrie, and their army numbered about 5000.

Very equal in numbers the two armies met on one of the slopes on the north-east of Inverkeithing - the grounds of Duloch, Middlebank, and Pitreavie were the battle grounds.

Here one of the stiffest battles of the campaign was fought out.

Downing tells us that the "hottest service was between the left wing of the English and the right wing of the Scots".

As the battle raged the issue was in doubt for some time.

The Scots with their lances carried disorder into the enemy's camp, and in one of the reports of the time we are told that the gallant charges of the Scots wrought disorder among the English horse.

Lambert's plan was admirably worked out, however, and coming up the rut between Duloch

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SATURDAY, JULY 14, 1900.

THE PARISH OF BEATH.

SOME INTERESTING HISTORICAL NOTES.

At the close of the complimentary dinner to Provost Mungall last week a citizen of Dunfermline, who has a strong scent for things antiquarian, raised some questions as to the name of Beath and the industry of the parish in the olden time. Mr David Beveridge, the author of "Tulliallen and Culross", in a lecture he gave in Dunfermline in 1883, told us that the parish of Beath seemed to derive "its name from the Gaelic 'Beath' or 'Beith' - a birch tree". If Mr Beveridge is right we are driven to the conclusion that the parish of Beath was at one time covered by birch trees - a very probable thing, Mr Beveridge goes on to say: - "It displays its ancient characteristics in the names of the numerous localities throughout the parish. Thus we find the Hill of Beath, Halbeath, which may indeed be the hall or house, but is more likely to be the 'hole' or hollow of Beath. Cowdenbeath has in its first two syllables a reduplication (cow or cu), being a Celtic expression common to Welsh and Gaelic for hollow, as seen in Glasgow or Glasco (Glas-cu), the grey or blue hollow. Linlithgow, the lake of the grey hollow (Linne-leath-cu), or the grey lake in the hollow. The whole name denotes the 'birch hollow'. Dalbeath is the field in the 'Beath', or birch forest, and Blairenbathie has nearly the same meaning (blair-enbeatha, the beach field); Shield, near Oakfield, is the seat or dwelling from the Anglo-Saxon 'sel' or 'seld'; Kelty, the 'collie-tigh', or dwelling in the wood; Torrybare, a reduplication composed of 'torr' and 'barr', both signifying a height; Lassodie seems to be 'leasachsuidhe', the improved or cultivated settlement, and the wide trek of mossy ground known as Moss Marran or Morron, is probably the moss of the 'Morroin', a Gaelic word for province or district".

We leave the origin of the name, and how the parish came to be divided, with Mr Beveridge, and turn now to the industry of the parish in the olden time. In the Old Statistical Accounts of Scotland, published in 1792, the rev. James Reid, the minister of the parish in these far off days, puts his whole report on Beath into two pages, while other small parishes have from six to ten pages. Here are the paragraphs of interest in Mr Reid's report: -

PRODUCTION - The only crops it produces are oats, barley, pease, beans, potatoes, and turnips; but no wheat, except what the minister sows in his glebe. It is believed, however, that a great deal of wheat might be raised were the ground properly prepared, but the farmers seem to have a prejudice against it. A great portion of the land is in grass, and produces excellent hay and pasture. The largest of the cattle bring about £10 or £12 a head. Provisions of all kinds have risen nearly one half within these 20 years, except oatmeal which is the common food of the common people. There is only one colliery in the parish belonging to John Symes, Esq., of Cartmore; several other seams of coal have been wrought formerly, and may still be wrought, as

most of the ground seems to contain that mineral.

POPULATION - The parish contains about one hundred families, which, allowing somewhat more than four to a family, may amount in all to 400 or 500 souls. In Dr Webster's report the number of 1099. The population has decreased considerably within these twenty years, owing not to any epidemical distemper, for the people are very healthy, but principally to the practice of laying so much ground into grass, by which means the farmers carry on their labour with fewer hands than formerly.

POOR - There are no begging poor here, and only a few pensioners, generally from 10 to 12. These are supplied either quarterly, or occasionally, as they need. The funds are the ordinary collections, dues upon marriages, and burials, and the interest of £100 due by bond to the session.

SCHOOL - The parochial school is the only one in the parish. The salary is 100 merks Scots. The number of scholars is about 30. The living altogether does not exceed £15 or £16 a year.

It will be noticed from Mr Reid's report that he states - "There is only one colliery in the parish". A ten ton wagon could have taken away the daily output of the colliery referred to. The progress made in this line will be apparent when it is kept in mind that the daily output of the Aitken Pit alone is upwards of 1500 tone. While progress falls to be noted in connection with coal-getting, we are afraid that the same cannot be said of oatmeal. Mr Reid says that oatmeal "is the principal food of the common people". The Beath grocers of to-day sell more sweets at 8d per lb. than they sell of oatmeal. What Mr Reid has to say about the school is interesting. He tells us that there is only one school in the parish; that there are 30 scholars in attendance; and that the living from all sources amounts to £15 or £16 a year, Mr Stenhouse told us last week that there were 8000 children of school age in the parish - in Cowdenbeath alone they had 1600 children in attendance at school. Under the heading of "curiosities" Mr Reid tells us that "the greatest curiosities in the parish is Hill of Beath". The hill is a feature of the parish. It can hardly be said to be a "curiosity". M Reid estimates the population of the parish in 1792 at 500; The Rev. James Ferguson, in the New Statistical Account, published in 1845, says that the population in 1831 was 921 - 459 males and 462 females. Mr Ferguson states: "The number of families is 780, containing each, of individuals on an average, somewhat more than five; a fact, perhaps, rather uncommon and to be accounted for by early marriages, chiefly among the colliers, who earn higher wages than any other class of labourers".

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SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1901.

THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF DONIBRISTLE COLLIERY.

THE PITS OF THE OLDEN TIME AND THE PITS OF TO-DAY.

HOW THE OLD PITS WERE DRAINED OF WATER.

ABERDOUR AS A COAL-SHIPPING PORT.

It is impossible to say when coal was first worked at Donibristle, but in the ecclesiastical and other records one stumbles now and again upon entries which give rise to the idea that the coalfields of the parish of Aberdour were stopped at the crop in the ancient days when work was proceeding on the adjoining parish of Dalgety.

IN THE ANCIENT DAYS.

For instance, on March 11, 1697, we have the Kirk Session enacting: - "That no seaman, master or servant in this parish presume to cross the water to Leith, as hath been our custom upon the Lord's Day, with coals or any other goods on pains of being rebuked before the congregation and a penalty to the box of £1". The Rev. Alexander Scott was the minister for the parish in the beginning of the seventeenth century. He met with his Session for the last time on 22nd February, 1721, and then the Kirk box was opened. The astonishing sum of £674. 18s and seven bonds for big sums were found in the box for the poor of the parish. The prosperous conditions of things was attributed to the Coal Trade. Dr Ross, the historian of the parish says: - "The coal trade at that time was giving full employment to a great many, and this not only at the north end of the parish where the pits were, but to those who were employed in carting the coals to the harbour, those who loaded the vessels there, and to the skippers and others who traded between the harbour and Leith. The shipping trade was evidently extensive". To this day there is a street in the village which takes the name of the "Coalwynd". The coalfield of the parish lies between the burn to the north of Monziehall Farm and the North British Railway which runs along the north edge of Moss Morran. The coal-working of the olden time were continued to a point near Monziehall Farm, and were of the most primitive type. The coal was struck at the crop, and the seams followed by mines, the workings being kept free of water by levels carried in from the burn. When it was found impossible to drain the lower section of the field by the levels running to the burn, the old people came further north where the coal gets thrown up by a dyke and carried in a water level from a clump of trees near Earl's Row to Moss Morran. This level drained the coals of the central section of the field, to a depth of eight fathoms. In summer, when there was little surface water, dooks were run in the coal seams for considerable distances below the

level of the water courses. The water which collected at the lower depths was ladled from dam to dam, and in course of time this laborious system of drainage was superseded by wooden pumps.

RELICS OF THE OLDEN TIME.

Relics of the old pumps, of the wooden ladles, and wooden picks, pointed with iron, have been found in recent years in the old workings. In the lower section of the coalfield near Monziehall Farm there is only covering for three coal seams - the Dunfermline Splint, the Five-Foot, and the Mynheer. A little to the north of the old-time workings, the Blawlowan or Glassee seam takes on, and as we come further north, in Moss Morran, we have as many as five seams above the Glassee, including the Parrot, the Lochgelly Splint, and the Duddy Davie. Having only found three seams at Monziehall, the miners of the eighteenth century seemed to have thought that only three seams should be struck in other parts of the coalfield. In the stretches of coal that were struck in the southern slopes of Moss Morran, the Dunfermline Splint, the Five-Foot, and the Glassee was left untouched. In these modern times it is difficult to see how the omission was made, because the Mynheer is a hard, splinty coal, and is one of the finest household coal in the district, while the Glassee is only used for steam purposes. Although beaten in the old levels by the floods of water which came into the working from Moss Morran, the coalowners and miners of the bygone age of which we write, do not seem to have been prepared to abandon the workings. To the west of Earl's Row, in the meadow, a pit was sunk to a depth of several fathoms and a water wheel placed upon it at a considerable outlay. At several points the water was stored on Bueldyvie Farm in the hope of finding sufficient water power to drive the wheel. The pit was sunk to the Mynheer seam; but it is evident from the condition in which workings were found that the pump had fallen short of expectations, and the water wheel pit and the mining of coal at Donibristle Colliery were abandoned - the toilers finding employment at the neighbouring collieries, or returning to the lands on which the fathers of many of them had eked out an existence.

IN THE YEAR 1830.

In the year 1830, Mr George Grieve and Mr Alexander Nasmyth, the father of Mr James A. Nasmyth, the senior partner of the Donibristle Colliery of to-day, joined hands and took a lease of the coalfield of Donibristle from the Earl of Moray. There is a great difference between the colliery fittings of 1830 and 1901, but Messrs Grieve & Nasmyth tackled the field with such fitting as then could be procured. The first pit was sunk on the Monziehall Farm, the Dunfermline Splint or lower seam being struck at a depth of 20 fathoms in the Earl's Pit. A pretty good hold was taken of the Splint and the Five-Foot seams. A fortunate thing for the company was the fact that at a neighbouring colliery the working were on a lower level than the working of Donibristle, and the flood of water which had overwhelmed the mines of Donibristle in the olden time, and had ultimately led to abandonment, had vanished. The daily growth of water also found its way to the sea through the same channel. A second pit, the Ainslie, was soon sunk, and, considering the times, the output of the colliery became fairly large. Great enterprise was shown in the disposal of the coals. Only a small proportion of the output was disposed of locally, and there was no railway.

SHIPPING AT ABERDOUR.

The Company, following the example of the Day Mine miners, made Aberdour the point of connection with the outer world. A mile and a half of road was made from the colliery to the Aberdour Road, and an agreement was made for paying a portion of the upkeep of the highway between Aberdour Harbour and the Colliery Road. Along this road of three miles as much as from 120 to 125 tons a day were often carted and shipped at Aberdour. As many as 50 carts were often on the road, and from early morning until late in the evening the echo of the rattle of the Donibristle Colliery carts could be heard at the Goat and Whitehill plantations. In fact, in the busy shipping season - the summer months - when fleets of small sailing craft arrived from the Baltic and Dutch ports, carting was continued during the night from the colliery, and at the same time the stock of 250 tons, which had been built in the coal fault at Aberdour in slack seasons, was drawn upon. Before the colliery was connected with the North British Railway, an output of from 30,000 to 40,000 tons a year was disposed of in the manner indicated. Compared with the colossal output of some collieries of modern times this looks small indeed; but when the means of conveyance and all the circumstances are kept in view, even the practical mind must be driven to the conclusion that nothing short of a conquest was achieved. The connection with the railway changed the whole aspect of things on the Aberdour Road, and at the old harbour of the ancient village. In the days of which we write, the harbour was crowded in the month of July with sailing vessels, and from morning until night there was a continual rattle of coal in the holds of the foreign craft. To-day there is not a vessel to be seen, and instead of the schooner and brig and the sloop weighing anchor we hear only the whistle of the Galloway steamers, the splash of the oars of a fleet of small pleasure boats, and the merry voices of the children of the visitors who have hied themselves to the Brighton of the North to seek for pleasure and health.

CHANGES OF MODERN TIMES.

While the transformation has been made at the village of Aberdour, great changes have been experienced at the Donibristle Colliery. Mr George Grieve and Mr Alexander Nasmyth, the founders of the firm, have long since gone to their rest. The colliery is now one of the best appointed in the county of Fife, and instead of from 30,000 to 40,000 tons of an output annually, the output has been raised to from 120,000 to 130,000 tons. Here is a list of the pits which have been sunk between Monziehall and the railway since 1830: -

1. Earl's Pit.....20 fathoms to Dunfermline Splint
2. Ainslie Pit.....20 " "
3. Countess Pit.....30 " "
4. Meadow Pit.....10 " "
5. Dean Pit.....10 " "
6. Relief Pit.....25 " to Mynheer.
7. Catherine Pit.....30 " "
8. Isabella Pit.....62 " to Dunfermline Splint
9. Moor Pit.....15 " to Lochgelly Splint and Parrot

- 10. Adams Pit.....Crop of Dunfermline Splint Coal.
- 11. Ashley Pit.....30 fathoms to Lochgelly Splint and Parrot
- 12. No 12 Pit.....100 fathoms to Dunfermline Splint
- 13. Marion Pit.....100 " "
- 14. James Pit.....105 " "
- 15. No 15 Pit.....105 " "

THE OLD PITS.

To the older people of Donibristle and district the names of the old pits will recall many incidents on mining in the olden time. Women worked in the Earl's Pit and other pits, and No. 11 Pit was called the Ashley because it was the first shaft sunk after Lord Ashley's Act of 1842 was passed, by which women, and children of tender years, were precluded from entering the mines.

THE COUNTESS PIT

was sunk between the Earl's and the Ainslie, and with the Countess a new development in the history of Donibristle Colliery was witnessed. On the Earl's and the Ainslie the motive power of raising the coals to the surface was the horse gin. On the Countess Pit a steam winding engine was erected, and the seams being at a lower level than anything previously worked, a pumping engine had to be faced. The Dunfermline Splint was struck at a depth of 30 fathoms, and because of a fault which constituted a "slip down", the Mynheer was gotten at a much lower depth than it had previously been touched. We give a drawing of the fittings of the Countess Pit, taken from a sketch in 1838 by Mr Perry, artist. (n.b. see Dunfermline Journal, Saturday, July 13th, 1901, page 7 for sketch. Jim C.)

As already indicated the Countess Pit was considered a big mining venture in 1833, and it is interesting to contrast the fitting with the great pits of to-day. It will be noticed that there were no cages, and no guides in the shaft. The boxes were cleeked on to the rope and taken off and on to trams at the bottom and mouth of the shaft. In ascending and descending men had to keep a watchful eye on the passing cage. The pithead frame was very high, and the pulleys small, the pumps were raised and lowered by a crab, and the pumping beam was of wood balanced, as will be seen from the sketch, with an old pump laden with cast-iron. The Meadow Pit struck the coal at a point near the crop, which accounts for its shallowness, and the same falls to be said of the Dean Pit. The first five pits were sunk to the south of the Kirkcaldy Road - the old school being the site of the Dean. With the Relief Pit, attention began to be devoted to the field to the north of the public highway. Pumping and winding engines of some pretensions were place on the Catherine, which was sunk to the Mynheer seam; and, strange to say, the Dunfermline Splint was gotten at the same depth, having been thrown up by a dyke at a point in the field right opposite the Mynheer. In 1838 the company moved a little further north, and then tackled the greatest undertaking they had yet attempted - the Isabella or No. 8 Pit. It was here that the upper section of the coalfield of the Parish was really tapped, and the Lochgelly Splint and Parrot, the Blawlowan, the Mynheer, the Five-Foot, and the Dunfermline Splint were struck.

THE PITS OF TO-DAY.

Operations are now suspended at the Isabella; but it is only a few years since it was the principle pit of the colliery; and even to this day the engine of 1838 (improved) is set agoing when the flow of water in the Dunfermline Splint workings demand it. No. 12 Pit was sunk about 300 yards to the north of the Isabella. No. 15 is close to No. 12, and Nos. 13 and 14 (the Marion and the James) are operating still further north, the site of the shafts being mid-way between No. 12 Pit and the North British Railway. Operations have ceased in all the pits in the southern section of the field; and now work is concentrated on the field north of the Isabella, in Nos. 12, 13, 14, and 15 Pits. No. 12 Pit was up till recently only sunk to the Mynheer seam, and the Five-Foot and the Dunfermline Splint seams were caught to the rise by cross cutting through the metals. Just recently No. 15 shaft, which adjoins No. 12, was sunk to the Dunfermline Splint, a depth of 105 fathoms, and this shaft being at a low level it is to constitute the pumping pit of the colliery. To cope with the water a Tanges Quadruple, Direct acting, compound, condensing ram pump, has been erected at the bottom of the shaft, and all the fittings are on the most modern principle. To enable the company to carry out the plan of working No. 15 Pit as a pumping pit pure and simple No. 12 shaft has been deepened, the Dunfermline Splint being struck only this week. By the change a capital hold had been got of the Splint and Five-Foot seams in this part of the field, while the Marion and the James Pits are operating upon all the seams from the Lochgelly Splint to the Dunfermline Splint from the centre of the field to the Company's march on the north. The Marion, the James and No. 12 Pits are fitted with coupled winding engines, and the two former pits are kept clear of water by a pumping engine of the Worthington type which was erected in 1888. This pumping engine has two horizontal steam cylinders, 19 inches in diameter, and has a 10 inch stroke working to two double acting rams, 5½ inches in diameter. The engine is fitted in the Marion shaft, and it forces 100 gallons of water a minute through a six-inch column. In both the James and the Marion the coals are brought to the bottom of the shafts by the haulage system. The haulage engines are placed at the bottom of the shafts, and every contrivance has been introduced to give speed and ensure the miners of a full output of coals daily. Rarefying fans are in operation at the Isabella Pit, and Marion and James Pits. The fan at the Isabella is a "Waddle", and it ventilates the whole of the workings connected with No. 12 and No. 15 Pits, the quantity of air being exhausted being about 20,000 cubic feet per minute. The "Guibal" fan in operation for the north pits circulates 22,000 cubic feet per minute.

A SECTION OF THE COAL

The following is a section of the principal coals struck in the north pit: -

Name of Section.	Thickness in Coal			Depth		
	fath.	ft.	in.	fath.	ft.	in.
Peat.....	0	4	0	-----		
Boulder Clay.....	3	5	0	4	3	0
Sandstone.....	12	3	0	17	0	0
Coal.....	0	5	6	29	3	0
Coal.....	0	2	6	34	5	0
Duddy Davie Coal.....	0	3	0	42	3	0
Coal and Blaes &c	-----			47	6	2
Lochgelly Splint....	0	7	0	55	4	0
Blaes, &c.....	-----			-----		
Cannel or Parrot....	0	6	0	56	4	0
Blawlowan or Glassee....	0	5	2	73	0	0
Mynheer.....	0	4	6	89	0	0
Five-Foot.....	0	4	9	99	0	0
Coal.....	0	2	6	100	0	0
Dunfermline Splint.....	0	4	6	105	3	0

In the lower section of the field the seams are even thicker, the Dunfermline Splint being from 4½ to 5 feet, and all the seams are of the very finest quality.

THE QUALITY OF THE COALS.

The Donibristle Dunfermline Splint, Mynheer, and Lochgelly Splint seams, are all known as excellent household coals all over the country, and the Five-Foot has long had a good market in connection with our great shipping trade. All the apparatus calculated to turn out the coals in the best possible condition to the customer has been fitted up at the pits. The jiggers and screening plant are in continual motion while coals are being drawn at the pits, and so that the treatment of the material may be as effective in the winter as in the summer, the electric light has been introduced and a coal washer has also just recently been erected at the colliery. The colliery was first connected with the North British Railway by a mile of private railway through Moss Morran in 1857.

THE COLLIERY PROPRIETORS AND MANAGEMENT.

Mr James A. Nasmyth succeeded his father in 1857, and he became sole leasee in 1881 on the retiral of his then partner, Mr G.J.P. Grieve, son of Mr George Grieve.

THE VILLAGE OF DONIBRISTLE.

The village of Donibristle has not kept pace with the developments at the colliery. This is due to the fact that the northern pits are within easy reach of the Burgh of Cowdenbeath, and there the proprietors and several of the workmen have built a

considerable number of comfortable houses. The miners of Donibristle have always been strong on education, and in the early days of the Colliery's existence a school, of wonderful dimensions for the times, was built. The old Colliery School gave place to a spacious new building after the passing of the Education Act, and the reports of H.M. Inspector show that Mr Williamson and his staff do splendid work among the young of the district. The cottagers have always had a love for flowers, and the Horticultural Society, which has the patronage of Lord Moray and the Messrs Nasmyth, tends to strengthen the love annually, and as time passes the plots of ground of the cottagers seem to look better. The villagers are blessed with a plentiful supply of excellent water which is drawn from the springs of the Cullalo hills, and they are fully alive to the advantages of the blessing. The old schoolhouse still belongs to the Colliery Company, and they uphold it as a place of meeting for the villagers. The development of the lower seams of coal by the sinking of No. 12 and No. 15 Pits is being watched with a good deal of interest by the miners. Satisfaction is expressed at the fact that No. 15 has been sunk and No. 12 deepened without the occurrence of a single accident.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1901.

“FIFESHIRE IN THE OLDEN TIMES”

Amusing Lecture by “Cynicus”

On Thursday evening, in St. Margaret’s Lecture Hall, Mr Martin Anderson, better known by the non de plume of “Cynicus”, delivered a lecture of “Fifeshire in the Olden Times”. There was a good audience, the hall being well filled.

Mr John Ross occupied the chair, and in a few introductory remarks, humorously referred to the term “Cynicus”. He had looked the dictionary, and found that one of the definitions given there was “a surly dog”. Mr Anderson, quite the reverse of that, was a good fellow, and he ought to find some other pen name, which would not be so self –contradictory.

“Cynicus” on rising to speak, was received with applause. If he felt at perfect ease in his position he did not look the picture of it. For a time he stood both hands in his trouser pockets, but later on, as he began to grow more familiar with his audience, and to warm to his subject, the hands were withdrawn. He speaks with a slight lisp, but his words were perfectly audible everywhere. To hear him at the reading of the “auld mither tongue” was a perfect treat. The lecture was set out by referring to the Roman occupation of Great Britain, and traced the effects of the Roman culture on the barbaric natives. The effects he traced down to the present time; for there were in use to-day many words of Roman origin. The first picture was thrown on the screen at this time. In the picture, which was ludicrous in the extreme, “Cynicus” had attempted to portray the development of the Scotchman in

His Native Thistle,

and said that while drawing it, the picture had suggested a conundrum – “Why was a Scotchman like a thistle?” “Because there were so many fine points about him”. Proceeding, the lecturer described the appearance of Scotland during the Feudal Ages, and spoke of the Reformation and its results. By way of giving a correct picture of life in those bygone times, Mr Anderson quoted from burgh and kirk session records, and threw in a number of out-of-the-way quotations from old writers which gave graphic pictures of life as it was then lived. Speaking of the Covenanting times, he said it showed the impartiality of the Fifers that Robert Cameron, the noblest hero of the Covenant, and Archbishop Sharp, the blackest of the persecutors, were both native of the “Kingdom”. Like the sunshine after the storm, the troublesome times of the Covenanters were succeeded by what might be regarded as the golden age of rural prosperity in Scotland. That dated from the introduction of handloom weaving in 1750. from that time, in every hamlet and every village throughout the country, the clatter of the loom began to be heard, and until the latter part of the nineteenth century continued to be the chief industry of the country districts. The period from the time of the French Revolution in 1793 till the Crimean War presented a most interesting

“A Wee Keek Back”

picture of rural prosperity. The handloom clattered in every house, and the means of a comfortable livelihood were brought within the very doors of the country people. An air of comfort pervaded the villages, and every cottage had its garden radiant with hollyhocks, peonies and honeysuckle, and its well stocked vegetable garden at the back, with a pig, a few hens, and frequently a cow, provided against every contingency. The loomshops were the political and debating clubs of the day, and many an important question state was settled there by these enthusiastic village politicians, while the bust shuttles were plying. The

Pedlars or Packmen,

who wandered over the country at that time, were the news-bearers, and were welcomed by all. At the farm “toons” in particular the packman was an especially welcome visitor, and in the winter evenings the farm hands would gather round the great kitchen fire and listen to the stories he had to tell, and to buy his wares, and he was generally offered a bed for the night in the hayloft or barn. He was also the postman of the time, and would frequently convey letters for a long distance, besides other confidential messages. Another well known character of the time was the “blue goon”, or licensed beggar, who, like the packman, carried all the news and was generally treated with kindness if not respect. The last of the “blue goons” in this district died in Dunfermline as late as 1820. Ale was the common drink of the people, and there was scarcely a village without one or two brew-houses. The Schoolmaster, or Dominie, as he was called, was the great authority on all points of learning, and was often an accomplished scholar. He frequently filled other offices as Session Clerk or Registrar, and it was an undoubted fact that at that time education was much more thorough and complete than in these modern School Board days where payments by results was the rule., and the passing of the standards a greater object to the teacher than the welfare of the pupil. The great holidays of the year were New Year’s Day, Han’sel Monday, and Hallowe’en, but between times there were the Penny Weddings, the Kirn or Maiden, at the close of the harvest, and the fast days, which, though outwardly observed with great solemnity and decorum, were in reality more celebrated with feasting than fasting. The cruise lamp and dip candle were the

“Lights of Other days”.

The flint and the tinder box took the place of our matches, and the making of tinder by burning rags was another household duty. After describing the houses of the poor, both as to their furnishings inside and their appearances outside, and telling of the conditions of agriculture fully a hundred years ago, “Cynicus” went on to say that while it was pleasant to look back at the picturesque side of rural life it was undeniable that it had its disadvantages. The hours of labour were unlimited, and the wages pitiful small. Luxuries were impossible, and beef was unobtainable except by the very few, and tea was only used on the rarest occasions. Yet they sighed for these quaint old days – the quiet life, the sports and the pastimes, the Yule feasts, the Hallowe’en and the Han’sel Mondays. But, alas! They were forever passed away. Unless where they were in touch with some industrial centre their country hamlets were deserted and forsaken, the roofs were falling in, the kailyards over-grown with weed, and the firesides, where happy faces laughed in the candle light, were deserted

and cold. The rural labourer must go to the town or the workhouse. In town he might get bigger wages, but he paid a bigger rent, and had bigger troubles. He found that he had to share his earnings with quite a large number of people. There were the water, the gas, and police rates, the doctor, the landlord, the parson; and worse than all, his wife went in for higher culture, and instead of making ready his dinners, she read sonnets and studied political economy instead of domestic economy. Then there were the Trade Unions and strikes and lock-outs, and while the war went on capital went off, and labour remained at home with nothing to do. But even though he did save a little money, and started say as a shopkeeper, he found that like everything else there were too many at it; and worse than all,

The Co-operative Demon

was getting in to every town, and was entirely swallowing up the shopkeeper. He found his business almost done for, when by a lucky throw of some judicious palm-oil he succeeded in getting a grocers license, and then he could make them all sit up. Why this kind of injustice was tolerated in a free country nobody seemed to know, but there it was. With the increase of wealth, came increase of respect, and their friends decided to enter public life, and obtained a seat on the Parochial Board, then in the Parish Council, which qualified him for the Town Council, and he took an active interest in the administration of local affairs, and became a director in a large public institution, and discovered that by the time public charity reached the people it was intended for, it was nearly all swallowed up in salaries to officials. As chairman of the Parochial Board he discovered that the same system was carried on with the management of the poor, and that officialdom swallowed up the most of everything. Truly public charity suffereth long and was blind. One cruel injustice he found perpetrated in these institutions. When a poor man was forced by misfortune to seek shelter within their gloomy walls, he must part forever from the wife of his bosom, who has been his companion through life, for she was shut up in another part of the building. What

God Had Joined Together

let no man put asunder – except a poorhouse official. Was it any wonder that broken-hearted, he pinned, and to the great satisfaction of the authorities, died, and he was promptly rewarded with his share of the “land of the people”? They lived in too sordid an age. In the mad rush for wealth their finer natures were destroyed, and the true purpose of life forgotten. Everything was gauged by a money value, and too often in the church even they found that. The conditions under which they lived in large cities in the pursuit of wealth were not calculated to improve the race, and were it not for the continual infusion of fresh blood from the country their city-bred population would soon degenerate. The present decay of their rural population was one of the gravest features of their time.

The pictures were more especially meant to illustrate the concluding portion of the lecture. They were very amusing, but the moral was so apparent “that he who runs may read”.

On the motion of the chairman “Cynicus” was heartily thanked for his lecture.

Note: See “The Scots Magazine” of February, 1994, pages 116 to 124 (The Laird of Castle Cynicus), which contains an interesting article about Martin Anderson “Cynicus” – see also my postcard album which does contain a few of the postcards by “Cynicus”

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1901.

THE PARLIAMENTS OF OLD AND THE COAL INDUSTRY.

From almost the earliest times that coal began to be worked in England and Scotland alarmists have appeared now and again, and prophesied that the seams of coal would soon pay out, and that instead of being the coal vendors of the world the two countries would be forced to import coal or fall back upon peats and wood as a fuel.

The Scotch Parliament

As far back as 1563 the members of the Scottish Parliament seem to have been very much exercised over the extent of the Scotch coalfields, and an Act was passed prohibiting the exportation of coal. A good deal of coal was utilised in connection with the salt trade in the sixteenth century and in consequence of "maist exhorbitant and scantiness of fewall," and the fact that the Act of 1563 was winked at, Parliament was once more called upon to intervene, and the statute, with severe penalties added, was re-enacted.

James VI. Intervenes.

In 1567 the law against exportation was strengthened, and in 1609 James VI., who was stated to have visited Sir George Bruce's coalpits at Culross, took up the cudgel against coalmaster's who allowed foreign ships to return home with coal, and issued a proclamation prohibiting and discharging "all transporting of sea coal whatsoever to any port beyond the sea." Mr R.W. Dron, writing in the 'Glasgow Herald' reminds us that some of Fifeshire colliery owners protested against this interference with their trade, and petitioned the King to cancel the Act of 1597 and his proclamation of 1609. The King's reply was as follows: - "We cannot but marvel either at your great weakness in a matter concerning the public benefit, or, then, of your carelessness in preferring thereto the private gain of some two or three persons should be put in balance not only with the weal of that whole kingdom, but even of this whole isle, and I wonder how any doubt can be made of the vending of their coals, since coals are at this instant almost unbuyable for dearth." In 1626 it was proposed, in order to discourage the export of coal by foreign ships, to impose a tariff of forty-eight shillings Scots on every ton of coal exported in foreign ships. The proposal was strenuously opposed by the coalowners, who alleged that unless foreign vessels were employed, as there was not enough shipping in the country to transport nearly all the coal worked, the trade in the coal would be ruined, the works would be stopped, and many hundred families reduced to beggary. The protest was not made in vain - the

bill being dropped. The wiseacres of to-day, who are wanting to impose a tax on all coal shipped, might with advantage take a lesson from the Scottish Parliament of 1625. In 1644 a duty of 6d per £1 was imposed on all coal shipped in Scotch or English ships, and 1s per £1 in the case of foreign ships.

The Earl of Dunfermline.

Mr W. Cochrane Patrick tells us that the Privy Council had at various times fixed the regulations for the price and the sale of coal, and prohibiting all exports until all natives were supplied. Parliament in 1644 became convinced that the orders of the Privy Council were not being attended to, and Commissioners were appointed to enforce the regulations without stint and without mercy. Through some cause or other the Earl of Dunfermline was exempted from the provisions of the Act, in connection with his coal "in the Crossgates off the moor of Dunfermline, till 25th December, 1646." Happy Dunfermline. He seems to have been highly favoured by the Estate of the Realm. A return made in 1659 shows that the annual value of the custom on the export of Scottish coal amounted to £2216 5s 4d sterling. This sum would not go far in the way of meeting the expense of the present unhappy South African war. A tax of some kind was exacted in connection with all coal exported until forty-five years ago. During the Great War with France the dues on coals carried coastwise amounted to 9s 4d per chaldron, which was reduced to 6s in 1821. In 1835 the export duty was 3s 4d on large coal, and 21s on small coal. Adam Smith refers to these taxes as follows: - "If a bounty could in any case be reasonable, it might perhaps be on the transportation of coals; but the legislature, instead of a bounty, has imposed a tax on coal, which, upon most sorts of coal, is more than 60 per cent. of the original price at the coal pits. Where they are naturally cheap, they are consumed free; where they are notoriously dear, they are; loaded with a heavy duty."

In 1872 and 1873.

In 1872 and 1873 coals were even higher in price than they were last year, and a cry of an early exhaustion of our coalfields was raised throughout the country. A Select Committee was appointed in the House of Commons to inquire into the causes of the scarcity and the high price of coal. The members of the committee were wiser in their day and generation than Sir Michael Hick-Beach and his colleagues, and they pronounced strongly against the re-imposition of a duty.

The Relation of Coal Exports To Our Food Supply.

We quote the following from Mr Dron's article in the 'Glasgow Herald' - "In dealing with the export of coal it must be remembered that we are dependent for the bulk of our food supplies on imports from foreign countries, and there is therefore a very intimate relation between the exportation of coal and the cheap supply of food-stuffs to this country. Coal is practically the only heavy raw material available for our export trade. If outward-bound vessels are unable to obtain an export cargo it will result in a heavy increase in the cost of freight on imports, and this increased cost will quickly reflect on the general trade of the country. It will not be much benefit to the working-classes to get cheaper coal if it is at the expense of dearer bread and less wages. As an

example, we import annually from the Argentine Republic about 400,000 tons of grain, and over 800,000 head of cattle, sheep, &c., and against this we export about 1,000,000 tons of coal, so that the ships bringing our food-stuffs from that country have a return cargo about equivalent to the imports. The principal argument which can be advanced in favour of a tax that will have the effect of curtailing the exportation of coal is the supposed necessity of securing for posterity a supply of coal sufficient for their probable requirements. As matters stand, we are pretty sure of a supply of coals which will last us for, say, 150 years, maintaining the present ratio of increase and exports. If, therefore, we impose a tax on ourselves just now, it will be for the benefit of those who are inhabiting those islands in the latter half of the twenty-first century. Our export of coal amounted last year (1899) to 41,180,300 tons, for which the foreigner pays us over £25,000,000. Suppose we pass a self-denying ordinance, and leave the coal unworked for one year. We would thus lose £25,000,000. If, however, instead of leaving the coal for our descendants, we take the £25,000,000 and invest it for them at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. simple interest, it would accumulate to £118,000,000 in the 150 years. Surely posterity will thank us more if we leave them a purchasing power represented by £118,000,000 rather than 412 million tons of coal."

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1901.

REMINISCENCES OF VILLAGE LIFE.

By an Old Villager.

A correspondent writes reminding me that I omitted to mention many worthy men, aye, and many worthy women, in my reminiscences of Halbeath and Kingseat. I omitted some intentionally, but it will be remembered that I promised more anon. To-day I am going to implement my promise. Away back in the old days Halbeath and Cuttlehill Colliery belonged to Henderson, Wallace & Company. Mr Henderson lived at Old Halbeath House. His housekeeper, Anne Kirkcaldy, was one of the kindest of women, and it was to her kitchen door that many children repaired on Hogmanay morning and joined in the chorus -

My feet's cauld, my shin's thin,
Gie's my cake, and let me rin.

And if the good lady, through bustling about the house in the work of the morning, did not hear the plaintive notes, the appeal was followed by the words -

Rise up, guidwife, and shake your feathers,
Dinna think that we are beggars;
We are bairns come out to play,
So let us have our Hogmanay.

It is a good many years since Mr Henderson and his kindly housekeeper were gathered to their mother earth, and it is now some years since the chorus of the Hogmanay period was heard in the entrance to Halbeath workshops or in the "Store" square. What Mr Henderson's housekeeper was to Halbeath, Jenny Lawson was to Kingseat. Jenny kept house for the Glasses in the Kingseat Farm. She had always plenty of oatmeal cakes on the hob, scones in the "press", and milk in the "pantry", and nothing gave the Glasses more pleasure than to see her pushing pieces of scones into the pockets of the milk boys. The youths generally got a piece of country cheese to "tak' the scones wi'". And who among the village boys of 40 years ago did not know Mrs. Mitchell? At a time when villagers paid very little attention to the mechanism of the human frame, Mrs. Mitchell had a wonderful knowledge of the whole system, and young and old came from far and near to consult her about injuries to bones. She was always very kind to her children patients. When a cure of a "slipped joint" about the arm was effected, a "sour drap" or an orange was produced, and the manner the dainty was clutched at by the hand affected by the accident was accepted as the test of the cure. Just a little beyond Mrs. Mitchell's was Ha' Farm, which was tenanted by old Goodall. A "saxpence," with a bit of pease bannock thrown into the bargain, went a long way with Mr Goodall. "Did you never hear of 'Peel'?" is a question asked by my correspondent. Yes, I remember Archie, and his request to the pit ponies "eat hay the day, and they would get corn the morn". I have

also vivid recollections of the quoiting days of "Cockie Russell", and the tawse of Mr David Hewieson; and who does not remember of Willie Davie, the "pick sharper", working in his wee "smiddy" - it looked like the smithy had just been made for the man - in such a cloud of smoke that juveniles, when they appeared with, or for, their fathers' picks, were forced to ask "Is there Onybody in?" "Jude" and Jamie Laing were the fiddlers at the weddings. Poor "Jude". He died suddenly in America, far from the Long Row and "Giddel's Plantin" which has often echoed and re-echoed to the music of his violin, and the "houghia" of the men and women who cut the figure eight to his charming notes. I can also recall thought of "Auld Strength." I know the origin of "Auld", but where he got the "Strength" I cannot say, although he now and again came up the "day level" or the "boot-gate" covered with ochre. The funerals of these days are so tender I scarce can touch them. For about 60 years old Bob Hutton did the undertaking work. Funeral letters were not dreamt of, and often the remains of people were carried by strong men to Dunfermline, Beath, or Mossgreen. The invitations were all done verbally. About six o'clock at night a gentle tap came to the "inner" door, the latch was lifted, and the visitor announced in a subdued tope of voice that "you are desired to attend the funeral of ----- to-morrow afternoon at three o'clock to Dunfermline". Even in houses where rejoicing were going on the announcement brought silence, and the train of thought for the night was directed to the record of the dead one and his "forbears," The late Mr Charles Carlow, the father of the managing director of the Fife Coal Company, was then manager of Halbeath and Cuttlehill Collieries. Mr Carlow was one of the strongest managers of the old school. He rose from the ranks, and was always spoken of at the pits as "His'sel." It looks but yesterday since he marked off the site of the Eliza pit, and gave orders for the drawing of the ponies at the Albert, and yet it is nearly 35 years since the Albert's one-beamed engine, which sometimes cantered - I often heard of it spoken of as a "cuttler's barrow" - was stopped, and the Eliza pit has been flooded with water for well nigh a quarter of a century. These were the days when Mr William Glass was at his best, and never tired of pleading with an army of young men to place themselves in a position to study for the church or for the prizes of industrial life. And then who does not remember Robert Campbell, the Halbeath Farm griever. Robert did not like long headed horses and he hated men whose head was long shaped. He always argued that long heads were badly balanced in the animal creation, and hence it was that when he went to Dunfermline to buy a pony for "they colliers," he avoided the "lang heads" as much as he shunned the "Cline Brae" when he was driving with a heavy load. And who among the agriculture class does not remember David Adamson, who carried off the medal at the Crossgates ploughing match for ten years in succession. But amidst all the men and women of these days there was none I remember more than a woman who spoke often in proverbs, and who consequently invested much of what she had to say with poetry. Brought up in a hard working school, she never knew what it was to "eat the bread o' idleness," while articles of clothing had to be washed as "white as the driven snaw," and the floor scrubbed daily irrespective of the traffic. To rest before the heavy end of the work was done was to be "stuck like Willie Law's mither in the Star Moss," and she often reminded the uncharitable that "ilka door stap has its ain slippy stane." People who accused her children of wrong doing with no evidence to back the accusation but "they were dressed like your children" were reminded that "like is ill mark," and rebellious people who would neither "hup nor wind" were spoken of as being "like Sandy Elder's

coo," I do not suppose to be amongst her favoured few who knew either Sandy or his "coo", but the proverb speaks for itself. The active worker was spoken of as going at it like "a day work," and progressing "like a hoose on fire". "Stones" boiled among the butter were said "tae mak a gude brae," while thin porridge was spoken of as the "stirabouts" that "would rin a mile on a fir dale". My old friends proverbs are tempting; but from the poetical sayings I must turn to yet another trait of her character. Clever with the needle, nothing gave her greater pleasure than to be engaged in the work of making clothes for the children for the kirk. And these were the days when the "good clothes" were really worn at church and not by the wayside. The poor women of old, with their Bible, their applingy, their sprig of mint, and a red daisy, are laughed and scoffed at now-a-days, and the same scoffers glory in the fact that the customs of the Cottar's Saturday Night are being departed from. May I be permitted to remind the leaders of village life that glory in tearing up old roots and destroying traditions that it is from scenes like these of which I have written that

“Old Scotia's grandeur springs,
That makes her loved at home, revered abroad”.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1901.

THE ANCIENT BURGH OF CULROSS.

VII.

The Quality of Ale.

Among the first duties which the Council had to perform after the town was raised to the dignity of a Royal Burgh in 1588 was to pass an "Act of the Sabbath-day" preventing "taverns" and "brewesters" from selling "wyne" or "aill" on the Sabbath-dayes in tym of preching." This Act was followed by a "statuit" ordaining that "na man's wyfe nor douchter should flyt with their neighbour"; and "servand lasses" were threatened with the "Jogges" if they were found discovered "flyting or defaming one another". Acts were passed regulating the price and the quality of ale. Orders were give to banish "idle, vagabond persons" from the bounds of the burgh "for ever", and a crusade was opened against witches.

The Councillors and Their Hats.

In the light of Mr Keir Hardie's appearances in the House of Commons in those modern days in a doubled peaked bonnet, the following edict, which is dated October 1655 is interesting.

"The said day whereas it was appoyntit and ordanit be one of the last references of counsell that none of the persons that war to sit in counsell in tyme coming should come without ane hatt thereunto, and that under the pain of twelf shillings Scottis; and it being found be the said provost, bailies and counsell that there was of thair number that had transgressed the said Act be bringing bonnettis and caps instead of hatts, and the maiter being taken to consideratione, they, be considerationes moving them, have pardonit and forgiven the persons transgressors of the said Act, upon consideratione they nor no other of the counsell do the lyk in tyme comeing, and that no ignorance or pretendit hereuntill, the said provost, bailies, and counsell have statut and ordanit that whomsoever of the counsell that sall come to the samyne, not having ane hatt upon his head, sall pay an Vnlaw of twelf shillings Scots - nawayes to be forgiven, but the samyne to be presentlie exactit."

The threat to exact such a fine as that indicated in the statute seems to have had the effect of impressing all the members of the Council with a full sense of the dignity of the office, and from this date the bonnet and cap men appear in the Townhouse in Hats.

An Honest Man.

In days when the Council found it necessary to pass statutes for almost every walk of life it is satisfactory to find that when the time came for appointing "ane honest man" to fulfil the duties of postman between Culross and Edinburgh, the civic dignitaries had no difficulty in securing a man after their own hearts, and who quite realised that "honest labour bears a lovely face." It was on 26th March 1655 that the Council passed an "Act concerning the poste." The Act sets forth that the "Counsell, taking to consideratione how needful and expedient it was to have ane commoun poste of ane guid and honest reputatione,.... pitched and condescendit upon an honest man, Johnne Simsone, merchand, burges of Culross, to be the commoun poste from Edinburgh and bak againe." The Council accordingly agreed that the "poste goe furthe of this burgh everie wek upon Twysday, be nyne houres in the mornying, to the said burgh of Edinburgh, and that he returne bak againe therefra to this burgh the samyne wek upon Thursday, lykways be nyne houres in the morning." It must not for a moment be thought that the parcels post is a modern idea. When the Town Council of Culross appointed Johnne Simsone they ordained: -

"That quhatsomever persone or persones sall have any letter or other commodities to send to Edinburgh, the samyne persones come to James Craichie, thesaur of the burgh of Culrois, and delyver the samyne letters and commodities to him, with two shillings Scottis money for ilk letter and six pennies of the - weyht of commodities that sall happine to be delyverit to him."

The two shillings Scots charged for each letter only amounts to twopence sterling, and the charge for a certain weight of commodities - the weight is blank in the minute - was only a half-penny sterling. It will be noticed from the minute that the house of the treasurer of the burgh was converted into a post office, and the work of the treasurer of 1665 must therefore have been sincere.

A Deadly Skirmish.

Even with all the enactments and the statutes passed by the Council for the control of life, it appears that now and again serious skirmishes took place. The following minute dated 1665 refers to a combat which evidently resulted in loss of life: -

10 Dec. 1665.

"The said day in presence of the said bailies and counsell, George Bennet, after being examined before thame anent the lynning that was bought for the use of the killed men above the toun, winding thame thairintill, and what was done therewith - the said George confessit that there was onlie one winding sheet disponit upone, and for the remender of the lynning he did sell at Wm Pearsons bailie, his derrectione, for such ane pryce as he could gevt convenientlie therfor, and declarit that the elne therof was sold for 10s Scottis the elne; and that the said £4 10s qlk was the full pryce thereof in keeping, qlk he was willing to pay upon demand; Thairfor the saids bailies and counsell ordanit him to pay the saymne whenever he should requyrit therfor; and the said George being present, did condescend so to doe."

Mischievous Boys and Cadgers.

The Council of 1656 was as careful over the protection afforded to the relatives of the Councillors as to the members of the Council as the following minute will show: -

"The said day thair being ane complent given in the said William Pearstone, bailie, against George Drysdail, weaver, his sone, and James Hendrie, prenteis to Robert Bill, tailzeor, for causing of the said bailie his sone to fall off his horse ryding to the water the last Sabboth-day except one, be stopping of flocks under the horse taill, and than throw causing him fling and cast the bairne aff his back; qlk being considerit upon the said baileis and counsell, they did determne to threaten the Said Robert Bill his prenteis, being present and if any suche fault war done and commitit in tyme comeing be him or be any otheres in any tyme coming, the said bailies and counsell ordains them to pay ane inlaw of fyve pundis, and the parent or master to be compatababile therefor."

A glimpse of the marketing days of the olden time is given by the minute dated January 1657, when the cadgers are summoned before the Council and ordained to bring weekly in turn two loads of fish to the market of Culross.

Habits and Manners of the People in the Eighteenth Century.

Writing in the "Old Statistical Account for Scotland," the ministers of the parish say: -

"The people in general, are very tall, well proportioned, with good eyes, vivid complexions, and, upon the whole, very expressive countenances. They are not only decently clothed, but many of them, such as the young trades people, genteely dressed, even more so than is usual with persons of the same station elsewhere. Few are known to complain of wanting the necessaries of life; none, indeed, who are able and willing to work, or who are not notorious spendthrifts. A general spirit of discontent has never been known to prevail among them, nor are any combinations formed, on account of oppression, bad usage, or want of substance, for leaving the country. In the country part of the parish, their manners are, in general, simple and virtuous, living in the habits of sobriety and industry; and, though not many of them are rich, yet they are contented with their situation, enjoying the necessaries, and many of the comforts of life. We are sorry we cannot give the same favourable report, at least without many exceptions, of those in the town. This is chiefly owing to unhappy influence of borough politics which, in a place like this, where the numbers are small, draw almost every individual to act a part in them, when the competition happens, which is often the case; thus communicating the baneful habits of idleness, and a taste of luxury and dissipation. We have, however, the comfort to add that there are but few instances of any atrocious crimes. For 20 years and upwards, there have been no murders committed, one or two child-murders excepted. None have suffered by the hand of the executioner, and only two by their own. A proper regard to religion, and respect for its institutions, almost universally prevail. There is no place of worship but that of the Established Church. The number of sectaries, chiefly burgher and anti-burgher secegers, does not exceed 50, and these show no symptoms of sourness or bigotry, but, on the contrary, are exceedingly mild,

civil, and obliging in their manner, living in perfectly good neighbourhood with all around them, and are by no means the least industrious in the parish. The fashionable modes of free thinking are hardly known, and avowed by none, except by such, and these extremely few, as, from conscious vice and folly, account it their interest not to think at all."

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1902.

MINING IN WEST FIFE.

ELGIN, WELLWOOD, ROSEBANK, AND LASSODIE COLLIERIES.

III.

James, the eighth Earl of Elgin, diplomatist and statesman, did not confine himself to the minerals of West Baldrige. He had a 999 years' lease of the Lochhead minerals, included in the barony of Balmule from the Pitfirrane family. When the Elgin family ceased to work the coals on their own account, in 1865, the greater part of the coalfield fell into the hands of Thomas Spowart & Company, the leasees of the Wellwood Colliery. Wallsend was let to Mr Grier, manager, and operations were carried on by Mr Grier or his widow until 1877. On the acquisition of the Elgin Colliery, Messrs Spowart & Company combined the names Elgin and Wellwood Collieries, and Wallsend Nos. 2 and 3, the Derby Colton No. 1, and the Elgin Pits were sunk. In the golden period between 1871 and 1874 more than half a dozen pits were in operation on the Elgin and the Wellwood fields, and the output of those days compared favourably with that of any colliery in Scotland. It was then that the (Drumatuthil?) pit on the north west section of the Elgin field was put down to the Dunfermline Splint, but because of the coal being calcined Messrs Spowart & Co. abandoned the pit. About 20 years ago Messrs Nimmo & Son became convinced that the coal was admirably adapted for coking purposes, and they accordingly took a lease of the Rosebank or western section of the Elgin field and started the Rosebank Colliery by opening up the Drumatuthil (?) and the Dixie Pits. Hitherto work had been confined to the Dixie and (Drumatuthil?) pit; but recently the old Wallsend pit, which stands in a hollow a little to the north-east of Parkneuk, has been opened up. It has been found that considerable stretches of the Eight Foot, Swallowdrum, Cairncuble, and other seams have not been worked, and the Messrs Nimmo are having the seams opened. The day level leading to the Pitliver is evidently choked at a point near the Wallsend pit, and the water which comes from the workings to the pit mouth stood in the shaft to a height of about 60 fathoms. The water has been taken down by a special pump to a point sufficient to admit the Eight Foot seams lying immediately above being re-opened, and the work has advanced so far that 126 tons a day are now being gotten. The present temporary winding engine will give place at an early date to a pair of coupled engines, and, so that the coals may be handled to the best advantage, a screening plant of the latest type will be erected. Indeed the screening plant has already been contracted for. The air in the mine is quickened by a ventilating fan, and steam is provided for the whole of the engines by a set of Lancashire Tubular Boilers. The huge chimney stack which more than 50 years ago was in use is once more belching out the black smoke common to a going colliery. Siding accommodation has been made and the pit connected with the West of Fife Mineral Railway. In 1856 the

coals for shipping purposes were conveyed to Charlestown by a private railroad, which passed through Pittencrieff Street, Dunfermline. The wagons were conveyed by means of a locomotive from the pits to the top of the first incline at Colton Station at the east end of Golfdrum Street. From the bottom of the incline they were drawn a short distance by poles to the top of the second incline, which commenced to the south of Pittencrieff Street. From the Nethertown the vehicles were conveyed by a second locomotive to Charlestown. It may be interesting to state that passengers travelled by the coal trains to and from Dunfermline to Charlestown. The West of Fife Mineral Railway was constructed between 1856 and 1860, and this gave many isolated pits in West Fife a railway connection with the main line. The work is being carried on under the immediate supervision of Mr Clark, the manager, who has the advantage of repeated visits to the colliery of Mr Adam Nimmo, one of the managing partners of Nimmo & Son.

Messrs Thomas Spowart & Company took a lease of the minerals of Lassodie in 1860. And from 1860 to 1887 Lassodie was carried on as a separate concern. In 1887 a private limited Liability Company was formed among the partners of Lassodie and Elgin and Wellwood Collieries, and the combined concerns are now carried on in the name of Thomas Spowart & Coy., Ltd. Operations recently ceased at some of the Elgin and Wellwood pits; but all three pits - the Arthur, Lochend, and Colton No. 1 - where all has been as silent as midnight for from 20 to 30 years - all the gearings common to modern common or colliery fittings has been erected and the puff of steam is once more heard. In the Lochend the Dunfermline Splint seam is being re-opened, while at the Arthur and Colton No. 1, the Eight Foot and other seams are being tackled. Operations have not as yet proceeded far enough to enable us to say that the re-opening of the old shafts will be attended with absolute success, but so far as has gone things look hopeful. The work is being done under the immediate supervision of Mr Stanners, the manager of the colliery. The revival of Old Elgin, has changed the whole aspect of things in the village of Wellwood. So far from there being empty houses, as was expected by this time, the house accommodation is fully occupied, and it looks as if additional houses would before long have to be provided. as already indicated, it was in 1860 that Messrs Thomas Spowart & Co., took a lease of the minerals of Lassodie. Previous to that comparatively little coal had been worked in the district. There was only one pit on the northern shores of Loch Fitty, and the motive power was a horse-gin. A man who posed as an authority declared that all the coal that could be gotten at Lassodie would be discarded even by the Evil One and his stokers. Mr Thomas Spowart and Mr John Brownlie did not accept the obiter of the prophetic "Tammie" and in a comparatively short time a well-appointed pit - No. 2 - had been sunk and fitted up near to the old gin shaft, No. 3 pit followed and the famous Dunfermline Splint seam of excellent quality, was struck at a comparatively shallow depth. The minerals dip to the north-east and along the strath which lies between the northern slopes and the rising ground between the Loch and the village. Pit after Pit has been sunk until No. 11 has been reached. Nos. 4, 10, and 11 are in operation, and are giving employment to about 450 hands, while upwards of 200 houses are occupied in and about Lassodie. The Company are working the minerals on Lassodie and Thornton, and there is such a stretch of the coalfield to work as to indicate that labour will go on at Lassodie Colliery for many years to come. The village can boast of a very nice school, a church, a hall, and a store. Years ago an

innovation appeared in the shape of a public-house. The Rev. Jacob Primmer has the knack of saying things that stick sometimes. He called the public-house the "Spiders Web" when it was first opened, and so the name remains. It would be called the "Web" although Allsopp or a Bass were to appear in the village and dub it a "Coronation Palace". The Co-operative store wags on paying big dividends, and the Store having a licence serves to stifle the agitation for Lassodie falling in with other parts of Beath parish and opening a "Gothenburg". Mr Brownlie was at the opening of the Colliery in 1860; he is with the management to this day. Few collieries in Fife to-day enjoy the distinction of having a managing partner who has been at the one colliery for 42 years, and was on duty at the collieries inception. Mr Brownlie is not so young as he was, and he suffers from impaired eyesight. He knows every customer, however, and has every department of the works at his finger ends, and his son, Mr H.M. Brownlie, the commercial manager, and Mr Archibald, the certificated colliery manager, have the benefit of his advice for some hours daily at the office. He was the member for Lassodie at Beath School Board for 21 years, and every movement inaugurated for the brightening of village life has had his support. May we hope he will be able to take a practical interest in the village institutions, and to give the young, the active, and the vigorous at the colliery the benefit of his counsel and advice for many years to come.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1902.

MINING IN WEST FIFE.

VII.

MUIRCKHALL, HIGHHOLM AND MUIRBEATH COLLIERIES.

Since 1838 the Dunfermline Coal Coy., the Townhill Coal Coy., and now the West of Fife Coal Coy., have confined themselves to the western section of the burgh coalfield. A company which took the name of the West of Fife Coal Company was formed in 1868, and between the inception of the company and 1871 two pits were, under the management of Mr Henry Ness, sunk in the south-east portion of the field at Muircockhall. The Company encountered some difficulties to begin with, but in the closing days of the seventies, the roads in the Dunfermline Splint and Five foot seams passed through Calcined coal ere a splendid field had been reached. Just as the prospects were becoming bright Mr Wallace stopped his two great pumping engines on the "Queen" and the "Eliza" pits of Halbeath Colliery. The "Queen" and the "Eliza" were the drainage pits for a great area, and the Muircockhall workings ran in the direction of the "Eliza" roadways. A barrier of between 120 and 130 yards of Splint and Five Foot coal lay between the waste of the two pits, and, considering the enormous stretch of water, the management of the West of Fife Coal Coy. resolved to leave a barrier of 100 yards of the different seams. Before the point fixed on had been reached the water burst through on the Muircockhall workings. The pumping machinery was soon overpowered, and in a few weeks the Muircockhall workings in the Dunfermline Splint and Five Foot, and the Eight Foot were flooded. Indeed in shafts of from 90 to 100 fathoms the water rose to a point 38 fathoms from the surface. As a 'quid pro quo' for the flooding, the West of Fife Coal Coy. was granted 18 acres of a field at Highholm where the Splint was shallow and dipped eastwards to Loch Fitty. The Splint and the Five Foot seams were caught by a mine running in from the Day Mine, but because of the fact that the seams were not deep, and that there was a danger from the Loch, operations did not continue long - indeed instead of 18 acres coal was worked in only 6 acres. The flooding of Muircockhall, and the smallness of the area covered in the Day Mine led to two pits being sunk at Highholm. The pits were sunk on the southern edge of the dyke to Four-foot coal, one of the upper seams, and from there the Five-foot and Dunfermline Splint seams were struck to the north-west. Being in the vicinity of the dyke, the seams were terribly troubled by faults - the volcanic disturbances of days long gone by - and in 1885 the West of Fife Coal Company suspended operations and sold the works to the Dunfermline Coal Company, a company which was made up of members of the Alloa Coal Company. Things did not improve in the workings of Dunfermline Coal Company, for the reason that they persisted in working on the same troubled platform as their predecessors. In the closing days of 1888 the Dunfermline Coal Company gave up their lease, after the expenditure of £10,000, and the burgh found themselves in the position of having a

colliery to let. Mr Henry Ness, the first manager of the West of Fife Coal Company, who had gone to Benarty in 1883, stepped into the breach, and took a lease of Muircockhall and Highholm fields. All the lower seams being flooded, it was thought that Muircockhall Colliery was practically done; But Mr Ness opened up a good deal of coals in the upper seams, and soon had an astonishing output from the colliery. Muircockhall set away with some steam in its operations. Mr Ness turned his attention to Highholm. In May 1892 a company was formed under the name of Henry Ness & Coy., and in June of the same year the first sod of two pits was cut. Mr Ness sunk his pits 300 yards to the south of the abandoned Highholm pits, and thus got on to the south of the dyke which runs from the centre of the village of Kingseat to a point north of Killiebone pits, belonging to Messrs Thomas Spowart & Co. The Dunfermline Splint was struck at a depth of 115 fathoms. Considerably to the south of the pits there is another dyke, so that the two pits which form Messrs Ness & Co.'s Muirbeath Colliery, are right in the basin, and are operating upon coal lying between two dykes. The north dyke isolates the colliery from Kingseat on the north-east, and the south dyke protects it from the "Eliza" and "Queen" pit water on the south-east. The south dyke is of such an extent that the Company can go on working up to the very dyke without any fear of the Halbeath water breaking in. The coals on the south side of the dyke will be thrown up to a considerable extent. Messrs Ness & Coy. will pierce the dyke someday and take a hold of the coal to the south, but there is meantime no hurry for this, and the management will give the water a wide berth when the time comes. The pits at Muirbeath are fitted up with coupled winding engines of the latest type, with 20 inch cylinders, and the pumping engine is able for more than double the water it has to contend with. The steam is provided by four Lancashire boilers, enable of being worked up to 80 horse power. The Dunfermline Splint, Five-foot, Eight-foot, Cairncubie, and other seams worked are all of excellent quality, and Messrs Ness & Coy. have fitted up the most effective screening plant, so that the coals might be turned out in the best possible condition to the consumer. The electric light has been introduced at the works, and this is a great advantage in the handling and picking of coals. At the colliery about 300 hands are employed, and the output is 120,000 tons q year. Messrs Henry Ness & Coy. is a Limited Liability Company, with a share capital of £50,000. Mr Henry Ness is the managing director. He has seen a good deal of hard pit work, but he still keeps a firm hold of the reins. Mr Harry Ness, one of his sons, is the secretary and cashier of the Company.

The collieries have a connection with the West of Fife Mineral Railway, and the employees find housing at Dunfermline and Townhill principally.

The following table shows the royalties paid to the burgh of Dunfermline from Muircockhall and Muirbeath fields since 1870: -

	Muircockhall	Muirbeath
1870	£459 3 4	...
1871	686 18 2	...
1872	799 16 9	...
1873	808 10 10	...
1874	1314 5 9	...
1875	1327 0 2	...
1876	1345 13 0	...
1877	1197 10 3	...
1878	1414 13 3	...
1879	1809 6 0	...
1880	1479 1 6	...
1881	2202 8 3	...
1882	1943 2 5	...
1883	1975 1 1	...
1884	1295 7 4	...
1885	898 14 1	...
1886	876 16 0	...
1887	650 6 1	...
1888	275 14 1	...
1889	196 15 6	...
1890	108 3 0	...
1891	309 12 4	...
1892	559 10 10	...
1893	620 0 0	...
1894	483 18 8	£320 0 0
1895	362 0 0	325 0 0
1896	396 7 7	320 0 0
1897	388 2 6	1141 12 7
1898	301 19 2	1428 16 11
1899	...	2602 3 10
1900	...	4032 2 11
1901	...	5856 11 3

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

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MINING IN WEST FIFE.

VIII.

HALBEATH, CUTTLEHILL, AND KINGSEAT COLLIERIES.

Of the three collieries above named Halbeath is the oldest. The monks of Dunfermline did not work coal at Halbeath, but it will be apparent to the eye of the coal worker who journeys over the district that coal must have been gotten at a very early period. Some of the seams crop out in the "Den" near Buckieburn, and away in the dim and distant past the miners, who were then slaves, dug coals in the day mines, which originated or at least were drained by a connection with the burn. Writing in 1793 in the "Old Statistical Account of Scotland" the Rev. Allan McLean and the Rev. John Fernie tell us that in 1785 the colliery was purchased by Messrs Campbell, Morison & Company. "They have built two large engines. The one is erected on stone and the other on a frame of wood". Mr Fernie and Mr McLean go on to tell us "that the miners in the horse pits, without bearers, made from 1s 6d to 2s 6d per day; with bearers, from 2s 6d to 3s 6d; and the people above ground, from 1s 4d to 1s 6d a day". For many years works were confined principally to the western section of the coalfield where the coals were shallow and drainage was easily effected by the Buckieburn day levels, but as the coals to the rise got worked out attention was diverted to the eastern section of the field, and it was then that engine pits were established, and the water was pumped to the day level running to Touch burn to the south of the village. Some of the old pits bore the following names: - Engine Pit, Bye Pit, Rae's Pit, Plantin Pit, Mary Pit, Fletchers Success, the Willie, and Mrs Mitchell's. In 1841, when evidence was given before the Royal Commission on child labour in mines, the owners of the Halbeath Colliery were Brown, Gordon & Company. The numbers employed at the colliery, as stated by Mr Gordon, who was manager, were as follows: -

Males	Females
60 Adults	20 Adults
12 under 18 years	20 under 18 years
6 boys under 13 years	6 under 13 years

The following is the evidence led before the Commission: -

Mr Gordon. We exercise no control over parents in the labour of their children; they have been accustomed to taking them down when they needed them, and they do so now. Our practice differs from many collieries inasmuch as we engage our own females putters and they are paid distinctly from the hewers. A schoolhouse and

residence is found for a teacher, and the colliers have their children instructed upon payment of small fees.

Janet Campbell, 17 years old, putter. Wrought seven years below. Works 12 hours when work is regular; no very so here. The women work every day about (every other day), as there are more than can get employment. Makes stockings on idle days, and goes to the night school to learn the reading. (Reads a little in the Testament; very ignorant of the meaning of words).

Helen Spowart, 16 years old, putter. Been nine years below. Works for step-mother and brothers, as father died of bad breath some short time since; he was 42 years of age; and own mother has been dead nine years. Step-mother used to work in pit; is now too old and has been kind to us since father's death. The work is sore oppressing; would much like off her work, but canna gang as step-mother would be put out of house. Works for masters, and makes 14 rakes a day each 500 and 600 yards, near quarter of a mile, to and fro with heavy loads of coal in carts. (Can scarcely read; seldom moves to kirk)

Mary Morgan, 16 years old, putter. Been three years below; works with two sisters on mother's account. When employed by master, which is rarely more than five or six in the 12, we have to make 50 or 60 rakes (journeys) daily, and as the road is long and the brae is awfu' steep, the sweat drops off like streams of water. The roads are 600 yards long and many 900 yards long and we have to stoop very much. Never got much hurt; been idle sometimes with pains in the limbs for a day or two. When full work can get 1s 3d a day. (Reads)

Mr Adam Syme – The attendance at school of the collier children is very irregular; many are taken away much too young; and, having been only six months at this school, a, not able to speak as to the advance made, and regret that very little desire exists for instruction. Children of the district sometimes attend to the number of 90, at others 70. the night school is seldom attended by more than 12.

In 1841 there was only one little pit going at Crossgates. John Ramsay was the leasee. He was represented by John Cunzie at the meeting of the Commission and here is his evidence:-

Mr John Cunzie, agent for Mr Ramsay, leasee of Crossgates – We employ a few children at present as the work is new, and these are placed chiefly at the pumps; they work eight hours at a time and then change. Nine years of age is the youngest we have employed, and frequently colliers work young males earlier, as they appear to render good assistance. If the time of working the children below were limited to 12 years of age, they would be taught to read and write, and be more able to bear the labour allotted to them. Until compulsory measures are applied, the inattention of parents to their children's education will prevail.

In the forties a lease of Cuttlehill Colliery was taken by Messrs John Henderson and James McLaren. The Cuttlehill coals, like the Halbeath coals, ran down the Halbeath

Wagon Road and were shipped at Inverkeithing. In May 1871 Mr McLaren lost his life by being run over on the Wagon Road near Inverkeithing. In 1850 Mr Henderson was joined by Mr Andrew Wallace, and thereafter by Mr W. Fraser, and thus the firm of Henderson, Wallace & Coy. was founded. The firm confined their operations for two years to Cuttlehill, but in 1852 they acquired the lease of the Halbeath minerals. By this time the coals lying at a comparatively shallow depth were completely worked out, and Messrs Henderson, Wallace & Coy. at once set themselves to the task of deepening the "Queen" pit and re-fitting the "Albert". The "Queen" pit struck the Dunfermline Splint seam at a depth of 100 fathoms, and being at a lower level than the "Albert", the pumping engine of the latter was discarded. The "Queen" pit was one of the most wonderful pits of its day. The fitting &c., cost about £12,000. For more than 30 years its huge Cornwall pumping engine was in operation, and night and day the rattle of the fittings and the squeaking of the steam pipes could be heard throughout the district. Mr William Glass, whose memory is held in loving remembrance by many people to this day, was the manager of the collieries for some time. He was succeeded by Mr C.A. Carlow, the father of the Managing Director of the Fife Coal Company. Mr Carlow was a man of restless energy- thoroughly practical – and he soon inaugurated a series of developments which added considerably to the output of the colliery. At Halbeath 246 people were employed in 1857, and at Cuttlehill 160 hands found employment in the same year. In 1858 Netherbeath Pit and a day mine were in operation, and the output was subsequently added to by the sinking of the Burnside Pit. The Burnside and Netherbeath Pits are to-day standing with the walls around them, and only the rush of water is to be heard away far down in the shafts. The same falls to be said of the "Queen" and the "Albert" at Halbeath. The Cuttlehill and Halbeath pits were connected, and the working, in which many men were employed, are flooded with a great sea of water – a stream which would drive a great mill flowing continuously into the Fordell workings at the Humbug Pit near Crossgates, and from that into the Fordell water day level. A pit named the "Eliza" was sunk at a point about a mile north to the north east of the "Queen" Pit in the early sixties, and in 1863 Mr Carlow cut the first turf of No. 1 Pit at Kingseat Colliery. The pit was only sunk to the Eight Foot seam at first, but as the years went on the shaft was deepened to the Dunfermline Splint, and then followed Nos. 2 and 3 Pits – the latter being completed in 1875. On the stoppage of the Cuttlehill and Halbeath Collieries, attention was centred entirely on the Kingseat Colliery. Three pits within a short distance of each other, with a splendid hold of all the seams common to the district, made a compact colliery, and for many years the output varied from 500 to 800 tons a day. The little village of Kingseat sprang up, and ample employment was provided for the toilers, to the number of 500 or 600, of Halbeath and Kingseat. The area of coal to be worked has recently become very much reduced, however. Operations have already ceased at No. 1 Pit. For the present a considerable number of men have found employment at No.2 and No. 3 pits, but this can only be a temporary arrangement. As the coal faces in both pits become fewer the men may have to find work at adjoining collieries if no find is made in a bore which is being put down at a point a quarter of a mile east of the village of Kingseat. It may be interesting to state that it is a considerable time since all the original members of the firm of Henderson, Wallace & Coy. were gathered to their mother earth, and Mr Carlow is no longer with us. Mr Henderson died in the sixties and in 1876 Mr Wallace acquired the whole works, and at the same time he became the owner of

Halbeath Estate. Mr Wallace died in 1889 and was succeeded by his sons, Mr R.W. Wallace and Mr George. J Wallace, who took the name of Wallace Brothers. Mr George died in 1891, and since then Mr R.W. Wallace has had the works in his own hands.

(A good deal of misconceptions exist as to the feasibility of draining the Halbeath and other collieries of water, and we will devote next week's article to this subject.)

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1902.

SOME DUNFERMLINE STREETS.

VIII.

THE NETHER END OF THE TOWN.

THE TRADESMEN'S LIBRARY.

In the beginning of the Nineteenth Century it had not entered the minds of publishers to attempt cheap editions of standard works. Books were costly and money was scarce. Some young men spent their leisure time on the streets and by the wayside; but happily all were not alike. In every street in the city a century ago there were a few youths who devoted some time to reading after they had worked twelve long hours on the loom. In 1808 a few of the reading young men resident in Nethertown and Moodie Street met and took into consideration the advisability of founding a reading club, so that the members might have an opportunity of placing all the books they had into one common stock and commence the work of circulation. At the meeting it was resolved to bring all the "books into one place", and in accordance with the resolution William Meldrum, Charles Anderson, Richard Gossman and William Carnegie brought all their books together and deposited them in the house of Mr Kirkland, in Moodie Street. The libraries of the four were very modest. When the books were brought together it was found that they only numbered 20 volumes. But happily, the good work was contagious; others followed the example of the original four, and the library established in the little room in Moodie Street reached such dimensions that a committee was formed as follows: - Ralph Walker, Charles Anderson, Richard Gossman, William Carnegie, David Latham, William Meldrum, Thomas Main, Andrew Aitken and John Syme, The opening of the Moodie Street Library was the foundation of the Tradesmen's Library in Dunfermline. In an old note we are told that: -

The first librarian of the 20 volumes was Charles Anderson, Moodie Street, who was elected in 1808. Shortly afterwards the following books were bought and added to the little library: - "Watt's Logic", "Watt's Improvement of the Mind", "Beattie on Truth", "Campbell on Miracles", and "The Gospel its own Witness", by Fowler. At this time novels were shunned and poetry found little or no favour. The first librarian had a copy of "Terne's Sentimental Journey", which he kept out of the way in his chest so convinced was he that it was not fit for the vulgar eye that nothing would induce him to give it up to the library, or even a private glimpse of its exterior. This circumstance was mentioned to him a short time before his death, when the library had grown into great proportions, and in a flourishing condition, when Charles laughing heartily, said, "Aye, but it's a lang time since it was there noo". A note says: - "About this time (1811) we had many evils to contend with. Those who had given us books began to

bother us for money; and some of our leading members having imbibed favourable opinions of anti Baptist principles left us, and joined them and their library, which left us in an awkward position. But the resolutions passed to reduce the quarterly payments of the members of ten years standing to sixpence, gave a new impulse and added a few members". In a note we are told that about 1814 the Baptist Library broke up, which gave us some additional members and more spirit, and we exerted ourselves and purchased some of their books. From this time we gradually increased in members and in volumes. From another note we learn that "In the year 1811, William Carnegie, Thomas Young, and William Meldrum were appointed to draw up the first articles and regulations, and a list of the books; And I well remember" says the writer of the note "that two 18 ins pages held the whole concern and with space to spare; and at the time of removing the books to new quarters, a coal bucket and an apron held the whole concern. When William Meldrum resigned the office of librarian in 1819, we had 30 members and about 300 volumes. In 1820, William Wilson was elected librarian, which office he held for 33 long years, he having resigned in 1853 in consequence of ill health". In 1859 the catalogue of the Tradesmen's Library extended to 46 pages, and contained about 500 volumes on history, geography, biography, mathematics, astronomy, geology, travels, novels, &c. After various removals during a number of years, it was taken in May 1858 to a room in the County Buildings at the Cross. In 1832 the Tradesmen's Library was united to that of the Mechanics Library, and the united libraries contained between 5,000 and 6,000 volumes.

The Tradesman's and Mechanics' Library was merged into the Carnegie Free Library. It may be interesting to point out that William Carnegie, whose name appears among the founders of the Tradesmen's Library, was the father of the founder of the Carnegie Free Library. When William Carnegie put the couple of volumes he found in his pocket and carried them to the house of Mr Kirkland, little did he think that he was to have a son who would found a library in his native city, and who would follow the gift up by establishing similar institutions in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and other towns in Scotland, and in many cities among our kin beyond the sea.

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

Dr Henderson tells us that he culled the following from an old note: -

The Netherton was always loyal, and kept the King's Birthday in grand style, especially during the reign of good old George III. - the glorious old 4th of June - the Broad Street was gaily and ornamentally decked out with flowers of every clime and colour, strung along the fronts of the houses - even the lamp posts were not forgotten - girds covered with flowers were hung up in conspicuous places, and huge bonfires blazed and cackled before the doors. At one of these fires, nearly opposite David Ferguson's tavern, near the east end, "the men of the Netherton", the conductors of these races, came out to the fire and drank the King's health. After accomplishing this feat, they one and all, threw their glasses in the air amid deafening huzzas, the firing of an old "brown bess musket", and a round of pigmy cannons. Another note says "The laddies of the Netherton round the bonfires never divaldded tiring awa at wee cannons, cow shank-banes, auld keys, and bottles stuffed wi pouter and chuckie

stones, which was dangerous, and often was the cause of muckle mischief. The Nethertown being a wey oot o' the town doon here, the laddies amist did as they liked". The note goes on to say "During the early pairt of George the third's reign a dangerous thing was wont to be tried at the king's birthday baith up this toon and in the Netherton, which was called "the fleein' bowl". About a naffaor sae o' pouter was firmly tied up in a rag, alang wi' chuckie stones, then pit doon on the grund, and covered ower with a bowl; at ain and a pluff was connectit wid frae the ootside to the in - the train being fired, evry ain skampered af as far as they could get. The train soon got to the inside o' the bowl and set fire to the rag and its pouter, makin' the bowl fly sometimes up in the air, at ither times it burst intil a grate heap of pieces, and often did muckle ill, besides breakin' windows. Ane o' the fleein' bowls ance near killed a laddie, an then a stop was put til sic a dangerous diversion". These days of flowers, bonfires, cannons, auld keys, pluffs, and fleein' bowls, are all away, and among the things that were. These were the days and the doings of the "good old time".

(Same Page)

THE LIGHTING OF KINGSEAT.

At a meeting of the Fire-Engine and Lighting Committee of Dunfermline Town Council on the 5th inst., a letter was read from Messrs Wallace Brothers to the Chamberlain, enclosing a cheque for their portion of the cost of erecting the oil lamps at Kingseat, and of lighting the village for the year to 15th May, in which they stated: - "We think it is absurd keeping the lamps burning all night, as is done. We never dream of doing so at Halbeath. Oil costs us only 5½d a gallon delivered at Halbeath, as against the Corporation rate of 7d plus carriage". Mr Bell, Inspector of Lighting, stated that the question of keeping the lamps burning all night was for the Council to decide; that 7d per gallon was the lowest price at which he could purchase oil in town, and that if he was to get it at a lower figure he must go outside the burgh for it. The committee decided to delay consideration of these matters until the convener (Bailie Weir) had an opportunity of stating his views.

Mr Bell stated to the Council that he could now get oil at 6 ¾d per gallon.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1902.

MINING IN WEST FIFE.

XIV.

THE FIFE COAL COMPANY WORKS.

COWDENBEATH AND LUMPHINNANS COLLIERIES. - No. 1.

The Fife Coal Company have leases of minerals at Blairadam, Kelty, Cowdenbeath, Lumphinnans, Lochore, Leven, and Wellsgreen, and the concern is the largest mining venture in Scotland, and compares favourably with the biggest concerns in England and Wales. The Company was formed in 1872, and when operation were begun, the undertaking was an extremely modest one. Cowdenbeath Colliery fell into the hands of the Forth Iron Company, somewhere about 1850, and for some time the late Mr A.V. Smith-Sligo was the principal partner in the concern. Nos. 1, 2, and 3 Pits were going in 1868, when operations were suspended at the great Iron works at Oakley. The Cowdenbeath Colliery was a very small work in 1869, and was not by any means a lucrative concern. The output was not more than 200 tons per day. In 1870 when the success of the concern was somewhat doubtful Mr Henry Mungall accepted the position of managing partner. The doubts to the probable success of the colliery will be apparent from the following sentence, which we quote from the speech delivered two years ago by Mr John Connel, the Secretary of the Fife and Clackmannan Coalowners Association: - "Mr Mungall came to a work which had been looked at by others and considered not to be worth their while, but he had then as he has now, the knack of looking below the surface, and he saw that the germ of a plant which he could make blossom". And Mr Mungall made the plant blossom. So much was this the case, that before he had been many years at Cowdenbeath the Colliery had become one of the most thriving in the "Kingdom", and Cowdenbeath soon rose from the position of a hamlet to that of a populous village and ultimately a burgh with all its municipal machinery. In 1880 Mr William Beveridge, banker, Dunfermline, joined the Cowdenbeath Coal Company, and three years after the Company was further strengthened by the admission of Mr James Mungall, who had for many years occupied the chief post in the management of the neighbouring colliery of Lumphinnans. The Company purchased the estate of Foulford in 1876, and on the admission of Mr James Mungall to partnership they acquired the Lumphinnans Colliery and a lease of Lumphinnans minerals. The Cowdenbeath Coal Company was floated into a Limited Liability Company, with Mr H. Mungall as managing director in 1890, and in 1896 the Company was amalgamated with the Fife Coal Company. Lumphinnans is in the parish of Ballingry, and it is only in recent years that the minerals have been developed to any extent. In his "Church Life in Ballingry" the Rev. David Jamie states that the coal was being worked at Blair in the parish in 1710. In that year the Kirk Session of the parish had a "couliar" before them, and four years

later a woman who is described as a "Coal-bearer" was brought before the august Session for a trifling offence. In the days when the whole output of a pit was carried up a stairs pit by a few women, the coal gotten daily was not much. In Ballingry the early eighteenth century pits do not seem to have been a success, and a complete suspension took place. In the "Old Statistical Account of Scotland", published in 1793, we have the following paragraph from the pen of the Rev. Thomas Scott, the minister of the parish: -

Population in 1755	461
Hewers of coal at present (1792)	220
Families	55
Being to a family	4
Of the above there are males	94
Females	126

Of the above there are 80 Seceders. About thirty years ago it appears that this parish contained about double the number of inhabitants. The obvious cause of the decrease of population was the throwing of the principle estates to grass farms, which are now in the hands of a few considerable dealers in cattle produce. Altho there is a considerable quantity of grain raised in the parish, yet the soil being better calculated for grass, the rearing of cattle forms the most considerable employment of the tenants and some of the principal production of the parish. There are also in this parish both coal and lime. The last has not been wrought since Captain Park purchased Lochore, upon which estate they both lie. They are of excellent quality, and will be of considerable benefit to this part of the country as affording the means of improvement at a convenient distance and at a moderate price".

The Captain Park here referred to succeeded to the estate of Lochore in 1790, and he was responsible for the draining of the Loch. It will be noticed from Mr Scott's report that they only had 220 souls in the parish in 1792, and the chief industry was the grazing of cattle. But a point worthy of note is the fact that Mr Scott as far back as 1792 should have predicted that the miner would someday be of benefit to that part of the country. In 1841, when evidence was taken before the Commission appointed to enquire into the employment of women and boys, Mr Adam Begg was the leasee of the colliery. The following is the evidence which was led by the Commission: -

Mr Adam Begg "I endeavour to economise labour as much as possible, and by adopting self-acting inclines from the rise to dip, much labour is saved as well as greater safety in working. The number of hands employed by me at present do not exceed 73, 22 are females; I do not employ any male or female in my colliery under the age of 14 years of age.

I consider that children wrought in mines at early ages is most hurtful to them in their morals, and like wise prejudice to their health; they are taken from school before receiving common education, and seldom go back to school again; and they go to the pit before they have sufficient strength in their system to throw off coal dust, lamp reek, and other noxious vapours that are common to coal mines; and they frequently get command of money, which they make a very improper use of. Under these

circumstances I think it would be proper to restrict the taking of children into pits till the age of 14 years.

I have no school directly attached to the works; there is one in the adjoining village, where the colliers reside and also a library; the entry money is only 2s per quarter, but only three colliers subscribe. A benefit society, conducted on the principles recommended by the Highland Society exists, and the greater part of the colliers are members".

William Beveridge, 14 year old hewer - works 12 hours with Jeb Win, who has taken care of me as father died of the black spit, and mother soon followed; never does the putting as that is done by the women; wrought 2½ years. Can read and write.

(Reads very well; writes badly; is very well informed in Scripture history, but dull at the tables).

Janet Neilson 16 years of age, putter - Was at service, but left her place as father persuaded her to go below; much prefers service only suppose father needs my earnings. The work is very, very sair; has a sister at service. Works 10 hours daily; earns 1s per day. Reads; not write.
(Father a very lazy dissolute fellow).

In 1841 Messrs J. & R. Ayton carried on operations at Capledrae on the borders of Ballingry and Auchterderran parishes under the name of the Capledrae Colliery Company. Mr Thomas Goodall was the manager of the colliery, and here is what he had to say to the Commission: -

Mr Thomas Goodall, manager - "This work has been in operation for the last five years, and people to the number of 60 frequently employed, but no females.

At present the youngest is 14, and the oldest 18, that hurry the tubs of coal from wall-face to shaft.

The principal employment of very young children in our mines has been the opening and shutting of trap-doors. I have not the slightest doubt but the employment of some very simple machines might entirely supersede the necessity of employing them, although I have not turned my attention sufficiently to be able to give any definite plan

I think a limitation age at which children should be employed most desirable in the present ignorant, degrading condition of the colliers. If the colliers were in the condition they might and ought to be, considering the wages they make, the discretion of age might be left to themselves; I think, therefore, that 12 years of age is the very youngest at which a child should be allowed to go below ground, as below this it must of necessity stunt their growth, and destroy their constitution by being confined in damp air.

I suggest one thing which I consider would be a most efficient means of carrying out this Commission, and that is the moral and intellectual improvement of the colliers; they are in many places a most barbarous and degrading class, and the employment of females in mines, which is still common in many places around this neighbourhood, has done more to destroy the colliers physically, morally, and intellectually, than any other thing that I know of".

At and near to Cowdenbeath there are six pits in operation to-day - Mossbeath Nos. 1 and 2, Foulford, and Nos. 7, 9, and 10 (Kirkford), Cowdenbeath. At Lumphinnans, Nos. 1 and 11 Pits are in operation. At the Cowdenbeath pits about 1400 hands are employed, and at Lumphinnans 850 people are daily at work. The Kirkford and No. 11 Lumphinnans Pits are two of the greatest pits of the Fife Coal Company. In the Kirkford, the Fourteen-Feet, and Duddie Davie, and the Swallowdrum seams were proved to be of good workable thickness, then came the following seams: -

	Thickness		Depth
	Ft.	In.	Fathoms
Lochgelly Splint	12	0	195
Glassees	5	0	195
Five-Foot	6	0	226
Dunfermline Splint	4	6	236

In No. 11 Pit, Lumphinnans, seams of coal were struck at depths of 56 and 65 fathoms, and then came the following: -

	Thickness		Depth
	Ft.	In.	Fathoms
Coal	3	0	85
Coal	9	6	97
Main Coal	5	0	117
Upper Jersey Coal	4	0	119
Lower Jersey Coal	1	6	119
Swallowdrum Coal	4	1	122
Lochgelly Splint and Parrot	12	0	153
Glassees	4	8	175
Mynheer	3	8	186
Five-Feet	5	0	205
Dunfermline Splint	4	6	226

Two richer fields than those struck at Kirkford and North Lumphinnans it is not possible to conceive, and the coals are all of the finest quality. The fittings of the pits are thoroughly up-to-date, and the output will be enormous for many years to come.

SATURDAY, JULY 5, 1902.

MINING IN WEST FIFE.

XV.

*THE FIFE COAL COMPANY'S WORKS – No. 2**Kelty, Hill of Beath, and Lochore Collieries*

It was at Kelty where the Fife Coal Company first began operations; but the Kelty Colliery and the Kelty village of 1872 presented very different aspects to that of the Colliery and village of to-day. In 1872 the population of Kelty and Oakfield was little more than 1000; to-day the population of Kelty, Oakfield and Cantsdam is nearly 5000. In 1872 the output of the two pits of the old Kelty Colliery, to which the Fife Coal Company succeeded, was not more than 200 or 250 tons a day. The output of the Aitken Pit alone is as much as 1500 tons in one day, and some days the total goes considerably beyond 1600 tons. The Lindsay Pit was the first great pit sunk by the Fife Coal Company in the Kelty district. It is now 27 years since the Dunfermline Splint and the other lower seams were struck in the Lindsay Pit, and the real value of the Kelty coalfield discovered. The history of the Lindsay Pit is practically the history of the progressive period in the district. As the coals struck in the shaft were developed, the house accommodation was added to, and the years which have elapsed between 1872 and 1902 may be said to have been the period of the "mortar tub" in the north section of the parish of Beath. The Aitken Pit was sunk on the north-east of the Lindsay Pit, and is in the basin of the Kelty coalfield. The following are the seams of coal passed through in the Aitken shaft: -

	Thickness	Depth
	Ft. Ins.	Ft.
Main	5 8	18
Upper Jersey	4 2	696
Lower Jersey	5 8	711
Lochgelly Splint	5 6	726
Glasse	4 6	831
Five Foot	5 2	1117
Dunfermline Splint of Aitken Wallsend	4 6	1220

There is nothing approaching the Aitken Pit in Scotland. The fitting is one of the finest in Great Britain. It has an extensive hold of all the seams common to the district, and the Dunfermline Splint and the Five Foot seams have received such a touch of heat in Scotland's volcanic days as to transform them into glistening, sparkling, soft coal, which is splendid for navigation purposes – indeed, nothing has ever been struck in Scotland which comes so near the famous Welsh navigation qualities of coal. Two years ago the Company acquired the Lochore and Benarty Collieries, and this important purchase was followed up by the acquisition of the Fife

and Kinross Coal Company's works at Blairenbathie and Blairadam Coal Company's colliery at Blairfordell. The Aitken Pit workings have been run to the east of the Lochore field, and there it is that the Aitken navigation coals are all of the finest quality. A pit is therefor being sunk at a point one a half mile east of the Aitken where the Wallsend Navigation will be struck at a depth of 300 fathoms. The first sod of the pit was cut in March 1st, 1902, and the pit was christened the Mary Pit, after Mrs Carlow, the wife of the managing director of the Company. The pit will be the deepest in Scotland, and the fittings will be even on a heavier scale than the Aitken, the Kirford, and No. 11 Lumphinnans. At Blairenbathie developments are preceding apace, and at Blairfordell a new pit is being sunk to the Kinnaird Coals. The Fife Coal Company give employment to 1900 hands in the Kelty and Lochore districts, and as the work of development proceeds that number will be very much augmented.

The village of Hill of Beath lies at the east of Beath Hill. Through its Gothenburg, the village has become famous, and throughout the country the Hill of Beath of to-day is better known than ever the Hill of Beath of Covenanting times was. The village belongs entirely to the Fife Coal Company, and four pits complete the Colliery. Coal has been gotten at Hill of Beath for many years. Robert Wilson was the proprietor in 1811 when the Commission visited Fife to inquire into female and child labour. At that time the concern was a very small one, and only gave employment to 26 males and 9 females. Mr Wilson's evidence before the Commission consists of a few lines. He said: -

"Colliers in this part work their children at eight and nine years of age, and it would be a prudent step not to allow male and females to enter the pit until the age of 12 years; that by keeping them at school they may have a little more knowledge of the right and wrong. As miners find use for young persons of nine years of age, it will be a difficult task to induce them to educate their children; nothing but compulsory steps will effect it".

About 40 years ago the colliery fell into the hands of Mr Ord Adams, who came from the Hamilton district. Mr Adams had two sons associated with him, Mr Davis Adams and Mr Jas. Adams. The Messrs Adams had the Minister's Pit deepened, and then they sunk the Engine Pit, which has been in operation for nearly 35 years. The Dalbeath Nos. 1 and 2 Pits were sunk between 1885 and 1886, and in 1887 the colliery was purchased by the Fife Coal Company. The Engine Pit is a wonderful fitting for its time, and the Dalbeath Pits are all fitted with machinery of the latest type. The Dalbeath Pits are situated about midway between Hill of Beath Colliery and Kirkford Pit, and the Kirford, Dalbeath, and Hill of Beath Pits are therefore all operating on the same extensive coalfield. The Hill of Beath and Dalbeath Pits and the brick works give employment to about 130 men and boys. The village of Hill of Beath is a model one in many respects. From the profits of the Gothenburg Public-House, the village is lit by electric light, and from funds drawn from the same source the villagers can boast of a Bowling Green and splendid reading and recreation rooms. In the long summer nights a considerable section of the community take full advantage of the Bowling Green, and the committee of management are getting together such a collection of books as should make the reading room one of the most attractive village rooms in the country.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1903.

SOME FIFE MINING CUSTOMS.

ACCIDENTS, EARLY YOKES, AND RESUMPTIONS AFTER HOLIDAYS.

Old customs in connection with every industry in the country die hard, despite the innovations of recent years. From time immemorial the miners of Fife have had a custom of suspending labour when accidents involving injury to life and limb are occurred, and at many collieries the custom is to-day still as rigidly adhered to as it was half-a-century ago. When accidents of a peculiar character, such as those which occurred at Hill of Beath and Donibristle in 1901 take place. The minds of people are specially diverted to mining and its dangers, but it must be kept in mind that fatalities occur through roof and falls from the sides of the mine, and through sudden bursts of coal almost daily. As many as 100 men may be engaged at a coal face in a section of workings. Through a sudden collapse of the roof the two men who may be engaged in one place or "face" may become buried in debris. The men in the "faces" adjoining hear the ominous sound of the rattle of stones, and in an instant a proportion of the men engaged in the section are summoned to the scene. The saving of life is the first thought, and men are often extricated from dangerous positions at great risk to the rescuers. If men have sustained serious injuries, or are killed, the scenes are often very touching. The injured are carried down inclines, along level roads, and up braes, and every difficulty is overcome without a murmur, and every turn and move made in such a way as to give the sufferer the least possible pain. If the accident is serious, cage after cage of men are drawn to the surface, and operations are suspended for the day. In connection with the Donibristle accident, one miner gave as a reason for the suspension when serious accidents occurred that the men were unnerved for the time being and were unable to work. There may be something in this theory; but it is not by any means a complete statement of the case. When accidents occur a strong touch of sympathy with the injured or the bereaved runs round sections of the pit like an electric current - the air seems to become charged with the sympathy which necessitated sacrifice - and instead of the sound of rattling hatches and the bustle which is ever apparent at coal getting, all suddenly become silent, and the working faces and the travelling roads are left in the awful darkness of the pit and are deserted. At the pithead the winding engines are stopped; the rattle of the jigger ceases, and even on the surface the pits assume an aspect of melancholy. Only the pumping engine thunders on its course; but it proclaims the truth that the suspension of labour can only be temporary; that despite the accidents, coals must be won from the bowls of the earth, and men must toil if they mean to live.

Another custom is that which obtains in connection with the holidays. On the first day after a holiday of three or four days, or a week, the men at many pits congregate at the bottom of the shaft or at the siding near the faces; they have a smoke and a chat, indulge in some yawning, and suddenly rise and return to the surface. Rising out of

bed at five o'clock, donning the pit garments, and journeying to a siding near the working faces mean a considerable amount of labour, and in this practical age it is difficult to account for the perpetuation of the custom. Many men, it is true, are beginning to see nothing in the custom except that which brings discomfort and a decreased pay at the end of the fortnight to the miners, and at some collieries the feeling to have a good holiday - say a holiday of a full week - and have done with it has become so strong that on the first and second days after the expiry of a season of rejoicing, the managers make what they now regard as "a good start".

From thirty to forty years ago the men employed at some collieries commenced as early as three o'clock on pay days and on days after the commencement of a holiday. The "early yoke" enabled miners to get a full day's work and yet to suspend operations at a comparatively early hour in the afternoon. The eight hours a day system of working brought an end to the "early yoke," and the end of the wretched custom did not come too soon, for boys were often dragged out of bed long before they had obtained the rest which their little limbs were much in need of. In the evidence given before the Royal Commission of 1840-41 on child labour in mines, the trap-door keeper figures prominently. The trap-door keepers were children of from six to twelve years of age, who sat at various stations in the mines and opened and shut all doors as races of hutches passed along. The introduction of a strong air current and screens gave the 'coup de grace' to the doors of the roadways of the olden time, and the pit trap-door keeper is a pit official of the past. The abolition of the job was a relief to miners. Many of the mites had a weary seat of 12 hours daily in the dark at the doors. The evidence laid before the Commission showed that mites, because of the meagre wages earned in 1841, and the fact that they had to supply their own candles, were compelled to remain the whole day in the dark and the only incident which relieved their dull and monotonous lives was the shutting and closing of the doors to the "putters" as they passed along, pushing a hutch before them or bearing loads of coal on their backs. A mite of seven years of age, sitting in the dark on a roadway where there was often the noise of roof falls and the perpetual movement of a strata which is having its "feet" dug from it! Could anything more shameful be conceived? And yet at that time we were told that "slaves could not breathe in England."

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1903.

CHRONICLES OF FIFE FROM

1649 TO 1672.

In the "Chronicles of Fife" a "Diary from 1649 to 1672" by John Lamont of Newton, there are many entries which give the reader glimpses of life in Scotland in these stirring days. The following entries will be read with interest by West Fife people:-

THE WITCH OF PITTADRO

"1649 - December - Anne Mistris Henderson, sister to Fordell Hendersone, in the Presbytery of Dunfermling (sometymes called Lady of Pittadro), being deputed by many to be a witch, was apprehended and carried to Edinbroughe where she was keiped fast, and after her remaining in prison for a tyme, being in health all night, upon the morn was found dead. It was thought and spoken by many that she wronged herselfe, either by strangling or by poyson, but we leave that to the great day."

The lady here referred to was Margaret Henderson, who was known as Lady Pittadro. She was the sister of Sir John Henderson of Fordell, the first baronet. Lady Pittadro was a victim of the Rev. Walter Bruce, the famous witch hunter of Inverkeithing who persecuted women to the death. Miss Henderson was alleged to have "kepit severall meetings and abominable societie with the devil". Her trial was delayed so long that she got tired of life and rushed to poison.

CHARLES II. IN DUNFERMLINE.

"1650 - June 23 - The King's Majestie (viz Charles the 2nd) came from Hollande to this kingdom . . . From Falklande he went to St Johnstone; From St Johnstone to Dunfermling; from thence to Stirling; from Stirling he went to see the armie that lay near by Edinburgh and Leith, where he was welcomed with a very joyful declaration by the whole armie as also with severall shots, both great and small; from thence he came back to Dunfermling the 2 of Aug. (when he subscribed a declaration).. Charles returned to Dunfermling on April 5th".

THE BATTLE OF PITREAVIE.

"1651 - July 17 - Being Thursday, a partie of the English Armie invaded the Shyre of Fyfe.. They landed at Enderkethen and did intrenche themselves there. The 20 of July being Sunday, they fell upon a partie of our Armie that came from Stirling, betwix Dunfermling and Enderkethen at which place severall of that partie were killed, severall taken, and the rest fled".

A LAIRD OF PITREAVIE.

"1653 - March 2 - The Laird of Pitreavie, surnamed Whartlaw, departed out of this life att Dunfermling, and was interred there. He dyed suddenlie, and as it was said by some, the last word he spoke was an oath".

THE FIRST PROVOST OF KIRKCALDY.

"1658 - October - Robert Whytte burgis of Kirkekaldie was chosen Provost of Kirkekaldie. This man was the first provost the towne of Kirkekaldie had; for formerly they had baylies, but no provost. At this time also they got a deaconry over the trade".

THE EARL OF DUNFERMLING'S MOTHER.

"1660 - January - The Lady Chancellor, the Earl of Dunfermling's mother departed out of life at Dalgety, in Fife, and was interned, January 20 in the day time at Dalgety. The said Dunfermling's owne lady wha departed out of this life at Fyvie in the north, was interred Dalgety, likewise some few months before".

A BINGRY MINISTER.

"1660 - April 3 - The provincial assembly of Fife sat at Dunfermling where James Sybald, minister of Torryburne, was moderator. Mr Robb, minister of Bingry was continued in his charge, but not without great debate".

A KIRKCALDY MURDER.

The writer of the "Chronicles" thus details the circumstances connected with a murder and execution at Kirkcaldy:-

"1662 - January 16 - In the afternoone, at Kirkekaldie, one George Grieve, maltman ther, was killed by the shot of a pistoll by his owne sonne, for the son fyred upon his father deliberately and one sett purpose, whilie his father was turning the malt - kid, and shott him throu the head; and fearing he ind not beine dead he tooke a stone in his hammer and brake all his faece, and afterwards smote him with the said stone on the breast diver tymes. After the fact he came from the place and began a simeing re entrance, crying out that his father and he had discorded, (there was disagriement amonge them before, for it is reported that the father had byen in adultrie this 17 or 19 yere bypast with divers persones; for his custome was to drink much of the day tyme abroad, and to be absent from his own hous att night), and that he rather goe through nyne kingdoms than be in such a lyfe; and coming to one of his acquaintance he desired him to goe and give him a pynt of aile to helpe away his melancholy; and soe the went, and while they were ther, ther comes by a pyper and plays, and this wretched son went out and did dawnce. After this, the night approaching, he came to his father's man, and desyred him that night not to locke the stabell doores, because he purposed, early the next morning to goe with ane o' the horses to bring home a cade of coals (which was not his custome, but to cause locke the doore) So, in the night time he came to the stabell and took out one of the horses, and came to the kill and took out his father's corps and layd on the horse and took the same to the sands

ther, and threw it over the Craggie as you go to the West Bridge; and returning he cast the maly through other that the blood should not be knowne, as also threw somewhat on the doore of the kile to cover the blood and so stabelled the horse again. Not long after he returns to the stabell and tooke the same horse goe for the coalls, bot after the horse was drawen, he would, upon no acqount goe with him, bot he was forced to put up this horse againe and take ane other horse, and so went and brought the coalls. The nixt morning this murther is noised abroad but none would confess, att lenth this wretched son is challenged for it, bot he denys that he knew any such thang; and he is had to the corps, bot the corps did not bleide upon him (for come affirm that the corps will not bleide the first 24 hours after the murther); however, he is kelped, and within some hours after he is had to the corps, and the son takes the father by the hand, the corps bleides at the nose, bot he still denys. Also the man's wife is brought up; they cause her touch her husband, but he did not bleide, for some supposed her to have a hand in his murther; but she did not acknowledge anything. At lenth the son is brought to the tolbuith, and shortly after he calls for the minister, and confesses thi horrid fact, telling that he was the only man that did it, and purgis the woman, and any other whom they suspected. Some days after, he was put to death att Kirkekaldie, and his body put upon a gibbett att Kirkekaldie, above the town."

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1903.

OLD SCOTTISH FUNERAL CUSTOMS.

An Old Letter.

Josh Macrae, Glendevon, writes - Sir, some years ago a papper was read at a meeting of the Dunfermline Archologic Society about burial customs in Scotland. The followin' copy of a letter, wrote as far back as mair than a hunder and forty years syne by a Dunfermline man to his brither in Glasgow, may interest folk as a specimen of what was dune at funeralls of that time. The writer of it is nae great speller (nae mair than is me), but it is given as written: -

"Dunfermline, June the 15, 1761.

Dear Brother, - I doubt not by this time but you have heard of your mother's deces. Shou dyed the 9 day of June, and was burried the 11 day of June, and shou got a verry honorable buriel: we had plenty of eall and Huskie and brandie, and plaine short bread and sukard short bread, and wheet bread and wne bread. I have paid all the founrels that came from our town, such as brandie, short bread, wheet bread, wne bread, and the Coffen, but did not get a pirticlar a Count of what aell ther was spent, becaus William Patton came not back to the Dargie, but it is to be paid as shon as I get the a Count of it; they are all to meet at my hous the first thusday of July; to wit David bennet and William Marshall, and our sister, Lissie Philp, for to redd up maters betwixt David bennet and hir, when I shall give you a pirticlar a Count of what is Done and what the burile comes to - I sent you a linen Serk with Margret Henderson, which I expect you will have goot. We had at our Dargie old Dalketh, Andrew Scotland, Rob Johnston. John Demperton, McGrige, harlaw, and all the Nebors Round; we had John Harley, John Henderson, John Buchan, Rob Mudie in Lochend, John Robertson in Shiresmill, and the two John Philips, John Philp, John Muirmill and his Mother; we had from the east hand Touchie and Rentonal, Tho Grive, Hendrey Symson, Andrew Philp, James Philp in Damhead, and other two or three that I did not know what came from the east hand; ther was 36 or 37 men at the Dargie, besides about a dozen of wemon, and was all gentilly served; we are all weall at presant but my wife, and shou is some Beater, which is all from your Loving brother.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1903.

A VISIT TO DUNDONALD COLLIERY.

HOW THE COAL CUTTER WORKS.

A COMPLETE SUCCESS.

"Seeing is believing", is the remark with which Mr Thomson, the managing partner of the Dundonald Colliery, met some question which I had addressed to him, as I stood at the colliery office, anent the operation of the coal cutter. And being evidently determined that I should see the machine in operation at the coal face, he handed me a waterproof coat, a bonnet, and a lamp. In a minute or two, Mr Thomson, my friend, and I, were on a cage, and on giving the signal to be lowered, were soon at the bottom of the shaft. Here we lingered for a few minutes until, as John Christie, one of the oversmen, suggestively put it, the strangers had got on their "Pit eyes". Our eyes soon adapted themselves to the flickering light of the small oil lamp, and "ben" a roadway, which is for the most part six feet in height, we hied ourselves to the west side faces of the Mynheer seam, a distance of nearly 200 yards. The Mynheer seam is a hard coal, splinty from top to bottom, of from 2 feet 9 ins. to 3 feet in thickness. Because of its hardness and thickness a man would be pretty busy during an eight hour shift if he produced 1½ tons. At times such as those experienced in 1900 and 1901, when coals were selling at ransom prices, a coalmaster might make two ends meet with an output of 1½ tons per man; but it would be difficult to achieve this and pay the workers the current rate in ordinary times. Mr Thomson foresaw this when he and his partner took a lease of the field less than a year ago; and he resolved to introduce a Gollot & Copley's coal cutter. In the west side of the Mynheer seam there is a stretch of faces of 160 yards. The cutter is simply a circular saw, which works horizontally instead of vertically. When it was first started it had two men a shift to "sump" a hole long enough for the starting of the wheel, but by an ingenious application of the spiral screw, the cutter does the "sumping" close to "the side". "Sumping" is a part of the miners work which it was thought that the cutter would never do, but the difficulty has become completely overcome at Dundonald. Within two minutes of our arrival the air blast was turned on and the fierce rat-tat-tat began. The circular wheel with its many sharp teeth operates in a tough "slate" under the coal, and in six minutes a hole was driven into the slate for the distance of a yard. The machine was soon adjusted and it started on its journey along the face, "holeing" in three feet at a rate of 30 yards an hour - that is to say that the whole distance of 160 yards is accomplished comfortably within six hours. On a section of 101 yards of the same coal going to the south, the second machine is at work, and a third cutter has been started on the east side. The cutters work from two til ten o'clock, and during the night the coal settles down onto the pavements from end to end of the working faces. While the coals are dropping from the roof the roadways are being brushed into the coal face, and when the men appear at six o'clock they rattle the hutches into the places, and commence to

fill coals. One great advantage of this arrangement is the fact that if a miner happens to be off work for a day, or longer, another miner may take his place, and yet the sick may return any day to find he can start at once to fill coals. "You have solved the problems of working thin, hard, splinty seams in Fife", was the remark made by a member of our company to Mr Thomson as the coal cutter crept past the "drawhead", cutting is three feet in at a rate of 21 inches a minute. The speaker exactly voiced the feelings of the entire company, and some members of the company were practical men, who had had experience of all kinds of colliery work for well nigh half a century. Features which are greatly in favour of the machine at Dundonald are the "dalk holeing", the flatness of the workings, and the strong roof. There is a good deal of iron in the blaes, and along the whole range of the face on the west side, 160 yards, through which the cutter was travelling, there was not a fault in the roof, and to the "chap" of the practical man it rung "like a bell". But what doubtless contributes in no small degree to the success of the cutter is the fact that Mr Thomson has reduced method to an art. He has learned a great deal since I first met him as manager of Lumphinnans Colliery, and he now knows as much about mechanics as he does about natural coal working. His compound connections with the machine are perfect, and his staff are men who are fully alive to their responsibilities, and who make it a point to make themselves acquainted with every part of the cutter. Thus from day to day the distance along the face is traversed without a hitch. The success of the machine will be easily grasped by people not acquainted with pits when it is stated that the output of the pit and the mine has, within ten months, been increased from 50 tons a day to 300 tons, and changes are being made by which a daily output of 500 tons will be easily achieved. But while we are speaking of the success of the machine we come to the bottom of the shaft. The signal is given, and we reach the surface, glad to breathe the pure air of heaven, although the rat-tat-tat of the coal cutter lingers in our ears. After a clean up in the "Institute" which now forms the colliery offices, I turn over the leaves of Professor Geekie's "Geology of Central and Western Fife", and find the Dundonald section of the carboniferous system given as follows: -

	Thickness
Smithy Coal	3 Feet
	(Upper 2 3/4 Ft)
Little Splint	8 3/4 "
	(Lower 6 Feet)
Dudy Dain	2 3/4 "
Lochgelly Splint	4 3/4 "
Parrot	2 1/4 "
Glassie	3 1/4 "
Mynheer	2 3/4 "

Professor Geekie makes no mention of the Five Foot and the Dunfermline Splint which are the lower seam. Both seams are found to the west and north of Dundonald in the Lochgelly and Bowhill pits. They are doubtless lying waiting to be tapped in Dundonald, and with an enterprising Company like that now in the field it is not too much to expect that before long the lower seams will be tackled as well as the upper, and that Dundonald Colliery will become one of the most prosperous little collieries in the "Kingdom". On top of the Tower Hill, 50 workmen's houses are being erected.

The houses are prettily situated. They overlook the Glen and the Carden Tower, where at this season of the year there is much that is interesting and enjoyable in bird life, and where in the dim and the distant past the welcome note of the cuckoo were interrupted by the operations of the miners who dug coals in the day-mines run in from the side of the stream. At the site of the new houses we bid good bye to Mr Thomson, and promise to return after he has stripped the day-mine of its old-world machinery and has quickened the puffing and the pulses of the engines in the same manner as he has changed things at the pit.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1903.

THE MINING CENTRE OF FIFE.

EXTRAORDINARY DEVELOPMENT OF THE COALFIELD.

COWDENBEATH, LOCHGELLY, KELTY, CARDENDEN, AND LOCHORE.

"This is destined to become one of the greatest mining centres in Scotland". Such is a remark which was applied to Beath, Auchterderran, and Ballingry parishes the other day. And the speaker was right. In Auchterderran parish the sounds of the mason's mallet, the bricklayer's trowel, and the joiners hammer are heard in every direction, and the same may be said of Ballingry and the parish of Beath. At Bowhill Colliery the daily output of coal has reached a total of nearly 2000 tons, and Mr Muir and his management staff have just completed changes below and above ground which will enable them, when occasion requires, to make a very considerable increase of the output; indeed as much as 3000 tons a day is aimed at. Away down in the strata below, the Five-Foot and Eight-Foot seams have been extended so as to give employment to a greater number of men, and the spacious platforms which surround the pit mouth have been added to. A change has been made in the automatic tramways and other apparatus whereby four empty hutchies run on to each of the cages themselves. The hutchies are regulated by a patent of Mr Muir's which has not yet been named, but which operates so nicely with the two grippers that the four empty hutchies are run on to the cage by slacking the fore grippers, while the back grippers catch the hutchies behind. New tripping trams of the latest type have also been introduced, and all the workshops fitted with the most approved tools and appliances for working with wood and iron. Since the Bowhill Pits were opened the villages of Bowhill and Jamphlars have sprung up, and the Coal Company have just taken off land to the east of Bowhill for as many as 200 houses, which will mean an addition to the population of from 900 to 1000 people. Away up at Cardenden Colliery, under Mr Thomson, the work of development goes on. The colliery fittings are being splendidly improved, and fifty houses will be ready for occupation in the course of a few weeks. As the work of development goes on in the pit and in the day mine the houses will certainly be added to.

Coming along to the burgh of Lochgelly, we find that the changes there are enormous. The Lochgelly Iron and Coal Company recently built a considerable number of houses at Auchterderran Road, and a little further to the south on the moor they are erecting another 140 houses. These houses are well advanced, and it is expected will be ready for occupation by the end of the summer. The houses cannot be ready too soon, for at Brighills Pits the Eight-Foot seam is being opened up, and as the work of development goes on the hands are added to. As everybody connected with collieries know, hands cannot be added to at pits to any great extent unless the colliery proprietors provide houses. On the crest of the hill between Lochgelly Station and the

town, the Catholics are building a handsome new school. Like the Catholics of old who chose delightful sites for the Abbeys and Monasteries, the Catholics of Lochgelly have been happy in their selection of a site for the school. It is one of the most commanding sites in the district, with a magnificent view east, west, and north. The school will provide ample accommodation for the Catholic children of the Lochgelly and Lumphinnans districts, and will cost from £3000 to £3500.

Turning from Lochgelly to Glencraig, there we find Auchterderran School Board providing a new school for the village. The walls are in a fairly forward state, and it is fully anticipated that by this time next year the infants connected with the village of Glencraig will take possession of the building. At Glencraig Colliery, Mr Telfer is doing good work in the shape of opening out the minerals, and it is quite within the bounds of possibility that a big scheme may be taken in hand in the near future. The pits have gone down upon a mound, so to speak, and after a certain distance is reached the seams dip on either side - a thing which is certainly not common in any colliery in Scotland or yet in England. One of the shafts of Glencraig Colliery struck the Splint seam at a depth of 240 fathoms. It would be a bold scheme to sink one of the shafts right through the limestone series to a depth of 300 fathoms in all, and from this bottom run mines through the limestone and other rocks until the coal was caught at a level at a distance of say a half to three-quarters of a mile from the bottom. This scheme would be as expensive as it would be bold, but it would pay in the end, because it is evident that an enormous grip of the coal can be had in every direction. Judging for what Mr Telfer has accomplished since he went to Glencraig, he is the very man, with the aid of the directors, to tackle such a scheme.

A little to the north of Glencraig we have the huge chimney stack of the Mary Pit - the pit which is being sunk in the bed of the old loch by the Fife Coal Company, Ltd. Some houses have been erected near the pit, and it is in these houses where the unfortunate outbreak of typhoid fever has taken place. The outbreak is undoubtedly due to the fact that the water which some of the occupants have been using had been contaminated with sewage. Happily the defect has been remedied, and the villagers have now an abundant supply of good pure water. Meantime the task which lies before the authorities is to stamp out the fever. Although three nurses are employed, success has not yet attended the efforts of the Local Authority, of Mr Carlow, the managing director of the Fife Company, and those who have taken the matter specially in hand. The cases have increased during the past ten days rather than decreased, but with pure water and all the appliances of modern science the fever should be soon arrested and Lochore restored to the position of a healthy district. The village lies close to the foot of Benarty Hills, and is very prettily situated. Because of the flatness of the valley, the drainage will be somewhat difficult, but in these days of advanced science the difficulty should be overcome and it is certain that we only give expression to the hope of all connected with the district in saying that we trust it will soon be overcome.

At Keltie the same activity prevails, and the housing accommodation is there being added to.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1903.

THE COLLIERIES IN FIFE.

NUMBER OF COLLIERIES AND PERSONS EMPLOYED.

The following is a complete list of the collieries worked in Fife, and the number of persons employed: -

Persons Employed

	Underground	Aboveground
1. Appin, Townhill.....	14	2
2. Balgonie, Thornton.....	296	78
3. Benarty, Blairadam.....	121	18
4. Blairadam, Kelty.....	142	21
5. Blairhill, East Grange...	210	48
6. Bowhill, Cardenden.....	919	227
7. Brewsterswells, Radernie.	7	2
8. Cameron, Cameron Bridge..	228	31
9. Cardenden, Cardenden.....	122	30
10. Cassingray, Largoward....	28	8
11. Cowdenbeath, Cowdenbeath.	614	210
12. Cowdenbeath Nos. 7 & 10, do.	417	43
13. Craigend, Kinglassie.....	6	6
14. Denbeath, Methil.....	279	42
15. Donibristle, Donibristle.	262	81
16. Dundonald, Cardenden.....	103	21
17. Dunnikier, Dunnikier....	436	66
18. Durie, Leven.....	185	42
19. Dysart, Dysart.....	315	92
20. Elgin & Wellwood, Dunfermline....	164	43
21. Fordell, Crossgates.....	282	71
22. GlenCraig, Lochgelly....	564	112
23. Grangemuir, Pittenweem...	7	2
24. Hill of Beath, Dalbeath.	447	124
25. Kelty, Kelty.....	1070	228
26. Kingseat, Kingseat.....	161	41
27. Largoward, St Andrews's..	27	12
28. Lassodie, Lassodie.....	339	81
29. Lassodie Mill, Kelty.....	179	37
30. Lathones, Kelty.....	14	3
	Underground	Above Ground

31. Leven, Leven.....	621	168
32. Little Raith, Cowdenbeath..	484	79
33. Lochgelly, Lochgelly.....	881	140
34. Lochhead, Lochhead.....	25	4
35. Lochore, Lochore.....	104	67
36. Lochside, Townhill.....	48	2
37. Lumphinnans, Lumphinnans.	610	141
38. Muircockhall, Townhill...	79	10
39. Muiredge, Buckhaven.....	345	42
40. Muirbeath, Dunfermline...	261	42
41. Newbigging, Ceres.....	13	3
42. Oakley, Oakley.....	206	40
43. Pirnie, Cameron Bridge...	68	14
44. Rameldry, Rameldry.....	15	2
45. Rosebank, Dunfermline....	265	35
46. Rosie, Buckhaven.....	396	55
47. Saline Valley, Sunnybraes..	89	30
48. Sheardrum, Saline.....	1	1
49. Townhill, Townhill.....	306	65
50. Wellsgreen, Wemyss.....	317	52
51. Wemyss, East Wemyss.....	853	157

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1904.

A SHORT AND TRUE NARRATION CONCERNING THE KIRK OF BAITH.

(EXTRACTED FROM THE SESSION RECORDS).

Ye Kirk of Baith, a most fit and convenient place for the situation of a Kirk, being upone the roade way, and in the just middle between Kinross and Inverthine. Sua it is rememberit that tho' it be amongst the antientest paroches of Scotland. Whairfore a most reverend and worthe brother, Mr William Scott, sometime minister of Couper, reported that the first place of meeting, even the protestant lords of Scotland had for the covenant and reformation, was at ye Kirk of Baith. This Kirk in some sort myght be compared to Giddeon's fleece, which was dry when all the earth was watered.

When all the congregationes of Fyfe were planted this poor kirk was neglected and overlooked, and lay desolute then 14 years after the reformation, 1560. The poor parochiners being alway lyke wandering sheepe without a shepherd and whairas they should have convened to hear a pastor preach; ye principle use of the people's meeting was to hear a pyper play upon the Lord's Day, which was the day of their profane mirth, not being in the works of their calling, which was the cause of Sathane had a most fair name among them, stirring many of them up to dancing, playing at football, and up to sore drinking, falling out, and wounding one another, which was ye merits of ye younger sort, and ye elder sort played at gems, and the marks yr calling without any difference of the weeks day, from ye day of the Lord, and thus they continued as said in the space of 80 years, this poore kirk being sua bleake and barron – a sheepe hous in the night.

In the end, recourse was hadd to ye yerl od Moray, lord and patrone of the third of the paroch, to try if it might pleis his lord to ktribute anything for the building of that poore kirk, or if he would pittye the poore people, and suggh a long soul-murder that had beene amongst them ; The Countess of Home, his mother-in-law, was also dealt with the same purpose, but both refused. Sua when the poore people hadd beene so long tyme exluded from all hope to gett their kirk builded or any pastoure to speik a word of comfort to the parochiners souls, it pleased the Lord to put it in the hart of Mr Alex Colvil of Blair, having no relations to doe for that poore people, but being only their neere neighboure, and beholding from his own windowe yr pyping, reveling and deboshing, yr drinking and excesse, yt riote everie Sabbath day, was moved by ye Lord and mightily stirred up to undertake something for that poore people; and having assembled some of the speciall men of the paroch, at the village of Kelty Sheills, sounded their mindes if they might make bold to adventure to assits and helpe him for drawing timber and stones (he and they both fearing ye oppositione and discountenance of ye Lord and patrone of ye paroche) ye parochiners after represented did give this comfortable answer, that they would both doe and adventure to contribute thair best endeavours with men and horses for building yr kirk, but

because of thair poverty, thay were not able to contributt anie of thair owne privatt monies; but amonst other that were present none was found more fprward with his horses and assistance than Mr John Hodge, tennent at Leuchats Baith, of whom I made electione to oversee theworke and workemen, and did presentlie advance him some mony for that effect. It pleased the Lord, sua he blessed our endeavour that the worke prospered in our hand and was brought to great perfectione in a short tyme, even to the admiration of ye people and passengers who marvelled to see the graet worke goe on so suddenly, neither knowing the way nor the instruments. And because it was impossible when ye walls were up to get the kirk slaited in such haist, the slaiters being at Tipermore, which was at sixteen myles distance, thairfore it was thought expedient for the present yeere that ye kirk should be sarked with deales which being done with great diligence I thought fitt to send for ane old re. Brother, Mr John Rowe, ane minister at Carnocke, who after some refusals without the consent of the minister of Aberdoure, because unto his kirk both parriches of Dangetie and Baith were annexed, he could not undertake to preach; yet after much entretie he was moved to come to such ane affamished congregatione in such a retired place. The people, understanding that sermons was to be at ye kirk of Baith, so expectedlie and suddenlie builded, did resort from all places, and much more of everie sitie, being new fangled with such change, thronged in so to the kirk that was scarce anie place left to raise up some height for the palce to the pastoure. And while the pastoure was in a great moveing and elegant straine for the kindness and mercie of God to that people, that they lived so long in darkness, it pleased the Lord out of his immense love to bring such a sudden rush of joy upon my hart, that I almost fainted, but in end remembering myselfe, I was comforted to think that the Lord had shewed me a pledge of his goodness, and accepted of my weak and un-bedience, to make me instrumentall for the worke of his Majestie.

(signed) A. COLVILLE.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1904.

A MINIATURE CHICAGO.

GROWTH OF BOWHILL AND AUCHTERDERRAN.

Opening of a New School

An industrial development, which, in the words of Dr Rorie, Chairman of the School Board, has given to Bowhill and Auchterderran the character of "A Miniature Chicago", has necessitated the provision of a new school. The handsome building which has cost nearly £20,000 and which, with its twelve classrooms will accommodate about 1000 pupils, was formally opened on Wednesday by Mr John D. Hope, the member for West Fifeshire. The company who attended the opening ceremony was most favourably impressed with the appearance of the building. Its modern equipments which have regard to sanitary as well as educational requirements, and the extent of the playground, which, when the district is more fully occupied with dwelling houses, will secure an invaluable breathing space for the community. The twelve class-rooms open off a spacious central corridor, together with a cookery room, suitably furnished, for the teaching of the culinary art, and a work-shop for the boys in the supplementary classes.

When Dr Rorie proceeded to conduct the opening ceremony he was accompanied to the platform by Mr John D. Hope, M.P., and Mrs Hope; Messrs D Burt, John Watters, James Inglis; and Rev. A.M. Houston, members of the School Board; Bailie Laing, Lochgelly; Mr Rankine, the headmaster and Mr McEwan, headmaster, Cardenden. He intimated apologies from the Earl of Elgin, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Dr Dunn, His Majesty's Inspector, Mr Smith - deputy Inspector, and Mr Muir, general Manager, Bowhill Colliery. In a few happy sentences, Dr Rorie remarked that the village had been increasing very much like a miniature Chicago. (Laughter.) The result was that the school accommodation had been very deficient and a new building was a necessity. He added they were very lucky in having Mr Hope with them to open the splendid building. He understood the Member for West Fife was there to-day against doctors orders, and as though as a rule he did not encourage that, he would say nothing in the present occasion. (Laughter and applause.)

Mr Hope, who was cordially cheered, said he must necessarily preface his remarks by referring to the recent serious accidents, which, no doubt, would somewhat cloud the joyfulness of the proceedings that day. Three years ago they deplored the terrible catastrophes at Hill of Beath and Donibristle, and although Lochgelly accidents were not of the same magnitude, they still involved a great deal of suffering and loss of life. As on the previous occasions, too, they had brought out very great heroism, great bravery, and magnificent courage on the part of those who had conducted the rescue

of their fellow men, and that reflected the greatest credit and brightest renown not only on the party involved, but upon the whole county of Fife. (Applause.) The least they could do was to express sympathy with those who had suffered by the accidents, and sincerely trust that the injured would get well soon. (Applause.) Time had worked many changes in that district. A quiet rural parish was being rapidly transformed into a very active hive of industry, and he ventured to think that in a very few years the whole district within a radius of several miles would be the scene of the greatest industrial development seen in Scotland for many years. Collieries were being opened up every day, and there were prospects of more developments. In the light of those sad experiences which they were undergoing they must consider the lot of a man who brought the coal from the bowels of the earth and prosperity to the district and developed the resources of the country, and see that he got the fair and living wage to which he was entitled. (Applause.) He was not going to trespass on conversational subjects, but he expressed the sincere hope that the cloud at present hanging over Scotland would pass away. (Applause.) He hoped that mutual forbearance and mutual good-will would be brought to bear, and an amicable settlement arrived at. The public would never object to a basis of this sort - that the first charge upon the selling price of the product should be a fair and proper wage to the man who won the coal. (Applause.) After speaking of the invaluable advantages of the new school and paying a compliment to Mr Williamson, Kirkcaldy, the architect, Mr Hope declared the school open.

Mr D. Burt, a member of the School Board, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Hope, who they all knew was a very anxious member for the county. He had done a great deal of good, and it would be a pity if what was hinted at some time ago were to be realised, and Mr Hope ousted out of the post. As a working man, he was of opinion that Mr Hope represented the constituency of West Fife as well as any other man could. (Applause.) He was ever ready and willing to give his advice.

Miss Rorie thereafter handed a beautiful bouquet of flowers to Mrs Hope.

Mr Thomson, pit manager, Dundonald, called for cheers for the Chairman and the School Board for the good work they had done in connection with the erection of the school.

Mr John Watters, in moving a vote of thanks to the architect and the contractors, made some interesting references to the selection of the plans for the school, and gave some sound advice to pupils and pupil teachers. He advised them all to persevere, for perseverance and high aims overcome great difficulties. (Applause.)

Upwards of 1200 children paraded the village, headed by Lochgelly Brass Band, and then adjourned to a field kindly granted by Mr Inglis, where racing and other sports were engaged in.

Upwards of £50 was subscribed in the district to defray the expense.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1904.

THE MARY PIT.

The Fife Coal Company have faced and successfully accomplished many gigantic undertakings in their time, but probably the greatest of all has been the sinking of the Mary Pit, Lochore. Having purchased Lochore Estate, the company proved by boring that underneath the surface lay one of the richest coal basins in Scotland. In order to reach the mineral treasure the shaft had to be of enormous depth, and when the first sod of the new pit was cut on 1st March, 1902 by Mrs Charles Carlow, wife of the managing director, the Company knew that they were embarking upon an enormously expensive undertaking.

The Deepest And Largest Pit in Scotland.

Bearing in mind the fact that the new church at Lochore was built, as much on the strength of future developments in the district as on the present needs of the village, a few particulars regarding the Mary Pit may be read with interest. At the present time the sinking operations have been carried out to a depth of 130 fathoms, but as it is not expected that the Dunfermline Splint coal will be reached before a point 350 fathoms below the surface has been reached, three years or thereby will elapse before the first cage of coal is drawn. When compared with other pits, it is found that the Mary excels them all. It is the deepest and largest pit in Scotland. In Fife its nearest rival belonging to one of the collieries further east, reaches a depth of 270 fathoms. Its area covers a space of nearly 1000 acres, over 700 of which belongs to Lochore, and more than 200 being on Rosewell ground. When in full working order it will give employment to at least 1000 men, and it will draw as much in one shift as the Aitken Pit, Kelty, (the largest working pit belonging to the Fife Coal Company) draws in two. The output at the Aitken Pit is nearly 2000 tons daily. The width of the shaft, which is being lined throughout with pitch-pine boards 12 to 11 inches broad and 4 inches thick, is 29 feet by 11½ feet. It will be divided into three spaces, two being used for winding, the third being entirely set apart for the operations of the pump. The cages will be of the double-decker order, carrying eight hutches at a load.

The Pit Equipments.

When it is borne in mind that the cage weighs nearly four tons, and the laden hutches at least 15 cwts. each, and that that load of ten tons must be drawn from a depth of 350 fathoms every minute, it will at once be realised that exceptionally powerful machinery is required. The winding engines have 38 inch cylinders, 6 feet stroke, and a 20 feet drum. While the cylinders are 2 inches less in size than those of the Newbattle engines in Midlothian (the largest in the country), by reason of working at a much greater pressure, (120 lbs) the Mary engines are very much more powerful. They are fitted with Corlies valves which make them safer and easier to work. It

being impossible to exercise sufficient control over them by a hand brake, a little engine is being fitted up. By experts they are said to be the finest pair of engines in Scotland. Over 800 tons of concrete were used in providing a seat for them. The pressure falling on the "journals" is 96 tons, that being the weight of the drums (which are clad in oak six inches in thickness), and the connecting shaft. To stand the enormous strain, a rope of 17 inches in diameter will be required, this giving more than twice the strength of the ropes in ordinary use.

The pumping engine, which is of the latest type, and the most powerful in the country, stands 58 lbs high pressure, and 100 lbs low pressure. It is calculated to be able to raise 1000 gallons of water to the surface every minute. The pump rods, which descend the shaft, are 22 inches square, and from 60 to 70 feet in length. To produce logs of such length and thickness was a matter of great difficulty, and before the requisite number was got the resources of most of the wood world in the country had to be called upon. The rods being heavier than the water (they sink), and thus the engine by the operations of a well known law, has only them to lift being relieved of the additional weight of the water. Messrs Douglas & Grant, Kirkcaldy, are the makers of both the winding and pumping engines. The Pithead frame, made by Mr Henry Balfour, Leven, is built of lattice steel work, and will rise to the height of 80 feet from the ground. The construction of it will be begun next month. The pulleys are 18 feet in diameter, being two feet larger than those in use at the Aitken Pit. There are at present five boilers in operation, but these will be added to as required until twelve have been laid down. Of Lancashire design, they are wrought at 120 lbs pressure and are 30 feet by 6 feet. The chimney stalk is 180 feet in height, and bears mid-way to the top the letters formed in white brick, "F.C.C. 1902". A very powerful crib engine, capable of lifting 50 tons is in use at present for the purpose of lowering the material for the pumps. The permanent shop, which measures 60 feet by 30 feet, provides working accommodation for the blacksmith, joiners, and engineers.

The Work of Sinking.

Notwithstanding the fact that the work of sinking goes on during the whole twenty-four hours by 45 men, 15 being on each shift, progress is slow meantime because of the thick strata of whin rock which is being penetrated. Four drills driven by a special engine are used to bore the rock. Work will be speedier when the sinkers come to other end of the band of whin. When hard rock is being penetrated a distance of 12 to 15 feet is sunk before the work of lining is started to, but when softer material is being cut through lining has and must proceed apace with the cutting. At present a small engine is constantly in use on the temporary pumps, and another drives a fan which propels air through an 18 inch malleable iron tube to the men, while a third of heavier calibre raises and lowers the kettle. Besides these there are a travelling crane, a crushing mill for grinding material for concrete, several pug locomotives, and other machinery, all serving their respective purposes. By the time the Splint is reached, operations at the Aitken Pit, which is nearly two miles off, will have extended far in the direction of the Mary, and the first work likely to be undertaken will be the driving of a heading to connect the two pits, and thus providing a second outlet for the new pit as provided for by the Statute. When that is accomplished it is believed that a fresh opening will be made to the surface in order to provide further means of escape in the

event of any untoward circumstances occurring. Mr John Toole is the contractor for the sinking work, which is superintended by Mr John Allan, manager, Lochore House, who has charge of the whole of the work both above and below ground. In the way of screening plant, the most up-to-date appliances are to be introduced, and for the storage of wagons, numerous sidings will be formed. It is difficult to give an exact estimate of the cost of the undertaking, as many unforeseen circumstances may arise to heighten the expense, but it is computed that £150,000 or thereby will have been spent before the first load of coal is got.

Housing Accommodation.

In order to provide accommodation for the workers, the Company intend to erect 400 or 500 houses in the vicinity of the pit. Thus, practically a new village will be created, so that the anticipations of those who promoted the new church at Lochore are founded on very reasonable probability.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 1904.

"A VISIT TO A COAL MINE"

BOWHILL COLLIERY.

Its History And Its Operations.

(Lecture by the Manager)

Notwithstanding the attractions of a mid-summer night, a large number of the members of the Dunfermline Naturalists' Society attended at the Hall of the Lauder Technical School on Tuesday to hear a lecture by Mr A. Muir of Bowhill Colliery, on "A Visit to a Coal Mine", with illustrations by flashlight slides. Mr Henry Beveridge, F.S.A., of Pitreavie, President, occupied the chair, and briefly introduced Mr Muir.

Mr Muir proceeding at once with his lecture said: - The first object that takes your attention when you arrive at Cardenden Station is the pits which are situated on a slight rise, with the village lying to the east of them. The shafts were started to be sunk in the year 1895, but coal was only begun to be worked in the beginning of the year 1898. At that time very few houses were in the neighbourhood, but now you will see that a large village has sprung up and this has been rendered necessary by the great number of men required to develop the colliery. The village is typical of some of the cities in America and elsewhere which have sprung up very quickly, in fact, it may be termed the Mushroom Village. A walk of about three quarters of a mile brings you to the pits, and the first object that takes your attention when nearing the pits is the great stack of props piled up near, and connecting with the pithead by an inclined roadway which is worked by endless rope haulage for taking the props to the mouth of the pits, as showing the great expense for timber used in working the coal, I have only to tell you that it costs about 4d for every ton of coal raised, and this is by no means an excessive rate for a deep colliery with such bad roofs as some of our seams have.

The Winding Engine.

Next we come to the winding engine, and great massive engines they are. One is placed to wind out of No 1 shaft, and the other out of No 2. No 1 shaft is 220 fathoms deep to the five feet seams, and No 2 is 170 fathoms deep to the Lochgelly Splint seam. Each engine winds about 1000 tons of coal per day at the rate of 2½ tons per wind. The work is divided into three shifts in the 24 hours, during two of which the coal is brought up, and the other one, or the night shift, repairing work is done. There are about 1000 men and boys employed underground, and the yearly output of coal is

about half a million tons.

Stages of Development from Women, Water.
Steam Power to 400 Horse Power.

To illustrate the great advance in mining machinery during the last 100 years, Mr Adams has been good enough to prepare slides showing the different methods of raising coal during that period, one of which is on the screen and represents the coal being drawn to the surface by a "horse gin", another by "Water Wheel" for raising coal at Govan Colliery, near Glasgow, near the end of the eighteenth century. Then we take you further back when women worked in the pits and carried the coals in creels on their backs, along the underground passages and up a stair in the shaft, and deposited the coals in little bings belonging to each family on the surface.

The Days of Serfdom.

These were the days when men and women were no better than slaves, and were bought and sold with the colliery, as an instance of which, I read you an extract from an advertisement which appeared in the "Caledonian Mercury" of Wednesday, 24th January, 1770, as follows: -

"By adjournment, to be sold within the Parliament or New Session House of Edinburgh on Wednesday 31st day of January inst, betwixt the hours of 3 and 5 in the afternoon, the coals and other subjects after mentioned which belong to Mr Adam Anderson, Feu in Kestock, viz.: - the splint coal with the whole other seams of coal within the lands of Halbeath, lying in the Parish of Dunfermline and Shire of Fife, together with the tenth load thereof, Fire engine erected thereon by the said Adam Anderson, and whole machinery, collier houses, colliers, coal bearers, and "pertinents" thereon as also a tack of certain parts and portions of the lands of Halbeath whereof there is 13 years to run from Martinmas 1769, and sublet to sundry tenants who pay £20 10s 5½d sterling to the tacksman over and above the tack duty the public burdens payable by the tack. The upset price of these subjects is £500 sterling."

Then immediately after that comes an advertisement of the Tack of Over and Nether Dundonald, where though colliers are not sold as fixtures, you draw the inference that it was the rule and not the exception that they were fixtures. It is a fact that in the end of the 18th century the colliers of Scotland were relieved from slavery by Parliament. The last vestige of actual slavery was then extinguished in Britain, but long afterwards it was no uncommon thing to meet colliers who had been born slaves. Hugh Miller tells us that he had himself frequently conversed with them, and relates an anecdote of one who, according to his own account, at one period of his career had been niffered for a pony. It was a recognised custom in these days that the women who married a collier became his coalbearer, and bears out the old saying "Who takes the collier by the hand, takes the creel by the band". I may here state as a fact that my own father was working in the pits when only 6 years of age. In the year 1842 the women were prohibited by an Act of Parliament from working in the pits.

Generation of Steam.

From the engines we pass to the boilers. These are twelve of the Lancashire type, and produce steam for all the engines about the works.

Pit Stores and Water Supply

Next we come to the stores where the different kinds of supplies are kept. Adjacent to the stores is the domestic water supply tanks and filter. The water is pumped from a large cistern built in the side of the shaft which collect the water from a spring of fine clear water which comes from the whinstone rock at 55 fathoms from the surface, and is distributed through all the district in pipes in the usual way.

Treatment of Accidents.

Built in connection with the stores is the ambulance room for treating cases of accidents, and the shed for ambulance wagon and litter. The van is fitted with all the appliances that can be thought necessary for the care and comfort of the patient during transport to their homes or hospital. The litter is used for short distances and only for accidents of a less serious nature.

Pithead Workshops.

Next we visit the workshops, comprising the smithy, joiners shop, and engineering shop, where a large staff of the different tradesmen work at repairs and any new work which is required. The shops are fitted with three turning machines, one shaping machine, one screwing machine, one slotting machine, one vertical drilling machine, one large radial drilling machine, one planing machine, three punching and shearing machine, one emery grinder and twist drill grinder, grindstone, and fan for the blast for the smiths' fire.

Pumping Engine.

This view shows the kind of pumping engine which keeps the workings clear of water. It pumps 1300 gallons, or nearly six tons per minute to the surface, and works continuously except when it breaks down and needs repair, but this seldom occurs; water was the great drawback to the development of coal working in the old days, and an engine for pumping water from a mine was amongst one of the first steam engines invented, but before that, water was raised by means of hand pumps and water wheels, and among the first to apply the water wheel was Sir George Bruce of Culross about the year 1500 to the pits on the shore at Torryburn. Another view shows a large underground pumping engine placed at a depth of 115 fathoms from the surface, capable of forcing up 700 gallons per minute, and is used in case of stoppage to the big pump.

Air Compressing Engines.

We just look in to see the large air compressing engine when passing. It compresses

the atmospheric air to a pressure of 40 lbs per square inch, and is led down the shaft and along the workings in tubes, and works the haulage engine, small pumps, and coal cutting and boring machines, besides the jib crane and large punching and shearing machine on the surface.

The Load Hutches.

From the air compressor we go up the stair to the pithead, and see the load hutches coming up and the empty ones being sent down the shaft, this puts me in mind of a story I heard about a country man one day standing at a pithead and seeing the empty hutches going down and the load ones coming up, to show that he knew all about it, he went forward to the pitheadman and said " Man, they are not long in dipping them." When the load hutches are taken off the cage, they run by gravity to the creeper which takes them up to the steelyard where they are weighed by a man appointed by the Company and checked by a man appointed by the miners; you see one man taking off the pins or tokens by which each man's hutch is known, and a boy putting a mark on the hutch for the guidance of the men at the different shoots, and also for the "Billy Man", who weighs the amount of dross in the hutches by means of a spring balance. From the steelyard, the hutches gravitate to the "tippers" where they are emptied into the jiggers, They then find their way to the back of the pit and are ready to be sent down the shaft to be filled again.

Sifting, Separating, And Weighing.

When the coal leaves the hutches it falls into a jigger, with large perforations, which divides the large coal from the small, the larger coals passing on to the "picking tables" where any stones that may be amongst it are carefully picked out and laid aside, so that nothing but clean coal goes into the wagons, and is ready to be taken away by the pug engine to the wagon steelyard to be weighed and addressed to its destination. The small coals that pass through the perforations in the coal jigger fall on to a conveyor and is taken to another jigger, where it is again divided into various sizes of nuts, which also pass over picking tables and get the stones taken out before they are loaded into the wagons. There are four kinds of nuts, comprising of chirls, trebles, doubles, and singles, then the very finest size of all, called duff, drops into a long conveyor and is carried to the stock hole among the first views.

At the Bottom - Telephone Communication.

We now descend the shaft, arriving at the "bottom" we see the men putting the load hutches on the cage and taking off the empty ones, then we halt a few minutes in the cabin until our eyes get accustomed to the darkness, and here you will probably be surprised to find a telephone, which is in direct communication with the pumping engine house on the surface, also to the pitheadman, the office, and the managers house as well as my own, and is the means of saving a very considerable amount of time in cases of accidents to the workmen, or a breakdown in machinery. In one of the bottoms there is an endless chain for taking the empty hutches out of the pit bottom to the haulage or the pony along the level bit.

At The Coal Face.

We now start for the coal face, and in passing, look in at the stables, there are 32 ponies underground, but are kept in different sections of the workings, and in passing along you will likely encounter a pony and a rake of hutches. Arriving at the face you see the men employed in getting the coal, who look round with a look of enquiry on their face as much to say "I wonder who this is?" It is very seldom that a miner continues working when anyone goes into his place, but we ask him to show us how miners do their work, and he begins again. Pointing to the illustration on the screen, Mr Muir continued - this man you see beginning to hole the coal has not got very far under the coal, but you will notice that he has to take up a very cramped attitude to get properly at his work, you will also observe the sprags and props put up to protect him from the coal, should it be loose and inclined to fall; by and bye he gets further and further under the coal until he lies almost full length under it.

Pointing to another illustration, Mr Muir said: - This view shows you some of the difficulties in getting the coal at the face so as to get it to come down. It is in holing away under the coal like this that lots of accidents occur, more especially when the miner neglects to put up the sprags and supports you see and which he is required to do every 6 feet at least, according to an Act of Parliament. But of late years, machines driven by electricity or compressed air are being largely used for doing this work.

Machine Cutting.

Pictures of the end view of the machine was next shown, and passing to another Mr Muir continued. This view shows a section of the Jubilee Seam which we cut by machine, you will observe that it is admirably adapted for the coal cutter, as it is divided by a soft stone in the centre which the machine entirely cuts out leaving the clean coal and relieving the miners of a considerable amount of the hardest work, besides the coal got is very much rounder than that got by hand holing, and this item alone often represents the entire saving or profit to the coal master. As the working face is by far the most interesting part of the whole workings, I have had a number of slides prepared showing it.

Another view shows a machine cutting in the stone in the Jubilee Seam. This is one of the best Disc machines made and driven by compressed air, but there are numerous other kinds. The driving power is now very often electricity in place of compressed air. It makes a very handy and economical method of driving but is rather more dangerous and, therefore, requires more care to be taken in its use to render it safe for operating at the face.

When the coal is cut it is brought down in as large pieces as possible and filled into the hutches. Here you will see the same two men you saw when you got to the coal face, but by this time they have got a hutch in and are filling it. Observe the pins, the props and the pillars. They bid you good-bye when you leave them.

Government Requirements.

Of late years the Home Secretary has ordered, in view of the large percentage of accidents occurring at the face through falls of roof, that the manager with the approval of the Mines Inspector should specify a certain distance not to be exceeded between supports for the different seams, and the view on the screen shows that rule being carried out; You see the props placed at regular distances apart. Besides this what is called chokes, consisting of square pieces of hard wood is built up sufficiently clear of the face to allow the machine to pass along between them and the face. These yield as the roof gradually comes down, where as the props are likely to break. These chokes are taken out each time the coal is cleared away and brought forward to a fresh position. Observe the pieces of wood on the top of the props. These are put there for the purpose of distributing the bearing surface over a greater area. They also at the same time yield a little, acting as a sort of spring on buffer and save the props from breaking. Sometimes besides these temporary chokes, the roof in places where good building stones cannot be got readily, is supported by pillars built of round trees placed crosswise forming a sort of square cage, the centre of which and the spaces between the trees being filled up with stones and rubbish. From these views you will see the necessity for the large stock of timber on the surface.

Systems of Working.

The coal may be wrought on the stoop and room or long-wall system, "stoop and room" consists in cutting parallel roads through the seam in one direction at certain distances apart and connecting these by other roads at right angles and leaving square pillars standing to support the roof. This method is continued from the shaft pillar until the boundary of the coalfield is reached when the pillars are extracted by working back towards the shaft. It is only certain seams that are suitable for stoop and room. One of the reasons for determining this is the thickness of the seam. I may say this was the system adopted by the old folks, but they usually left the stoops or pillars too small and they were generally crushed and lost.

Long Wall.

Here is another view showing the method of extracting the stoops. Longwall consists in extracting the whole coal in one operation. Main roads are driven in different directions from the pit bottom inclines being driven from them, then short levels at the tops of the inclines from which the roads to the face branch off at right angles. The length of the face, as it is called, is the distance between these roads. It is usually from twelve to fourteen yards. This is occupied by a man and a boy or two men, one an experienced miner who digs the coal and puts up the props, and the other termed a drawer, who fills the coal into the hutches and takes them away to the main incline, when it is run to the main road and taken to the pit bottom by horse or haulage.

The Brushers.

Here you see a little haulage engine driven by compressed air used for drawing the

coal up the dook to the pit bottom. After the coal is extracted or filled away there is considerable work to be done to get the place ready for the next cut because the roof has been gradually settling down since the coal was taken out and it is necessary to ripp the roof or the roads to keep them high enough for the hutches. So during the night shift the "brushers" come into the place. They lift the rails and setting a prop in the roadway drill a hole in the brushing and put in a charge of explosives, blast the roof of the roadway down, making it about two feet higher. The stones that are got from the blast are built into the roadside to support the roof. This building is shown in the plan of the Longwall face.

Having now seen nearly all the operations carried on underground, we get to the surface again and back to the station in time to catch the train.

Visit To The Works.

In response to an invitation by Mr Muir a party of nearly forty made an excursion to Bowhill on Wednesday evening to inspect he works. Among those present were Mr Henry Beveridge, President; Mr Sommerville, secretary; Mr Wm Ross, treasurer; Major Shearer; Mr Adams; Mr and Mrs Connell; Mr Culing; Mr Richardson, postmaster; Mr Gifford; Mr Davidson, Touch; Mr Dawson and Miss Dawson; Mr Philp and Miss Philp; Mrs P Donald; Misses Anne Tod, Katie Tod, Garrie Addison, and Johnstone, Messrs Thomas Jackson, Stone Farm: Grandison, Henry Reid; T.A. Buncle; Wm Gow; P.G. Millar; David Henderson; George B. Hunter; Wilson; W. Drysdale, and J.H. Mackie.

As the party walked from the Cardenden Railway Station and saw on the rising ground before them the pit-works and the village of which they had beheld a pictorial representation on the previous evening, they realised the actuality of the transformation which had been effected within a very few years. They noted that the village had already attained the dimensions which some of the ancient royal burghs "east the coast" might envy, and that though considerable extensions were in progress there was no sign of confusion or even of the road-rutting that generally accompany the formation of new streets and the erection of new buildings. The general aspect, of course, could not compare with the appearance of the old established model villages in Durham, belonging to the Peases, or Lord Londonderry; yet although much paving has yet to be done and garden ornamentation for which there has not yet been time was conspicuous by its rarity, the appearance was cleaning and pleasing. The width and the plans of the streets gave evidence of regard paid to modern sanitary ideas; the curtained windows of the neat dwellings told of taste and comfort; the rosy cheeks and the tidy attire of the young people were incontestable evidence of healthy surroundings and of parent care.

Despite the information given the previous evening that the Bowhill Coalfield extends to four square miles, that the Company employ 1400 hands, 1000 underground and 400 about the pithead, and that the output of coal amounts to 2000 tons a day, with the prospect of an early enlargement to 3000, the first surprise of most of the visitors was the impression of the magnitude of the works they received, and of the apparently complicated character of the processes in operation. In their perplexity and

bewilderment they gratefully welcomed Mr Muir's cordial reception, and gladly submitted to his gentle though masterful guidance. Presently, under his guidance, the minds of the beholders became conscious of the evolution of order and of the gradual comprehension of the plan of operations. The extent of the resources for the generation of steam is realised as attention is directed to the twelve Lancashire boilers, 8 feet in diameter and 30 feet long, working at 90 lb. pressure to the square inch. The winding engine with all the equipment shining as brightly as the best cared for machinery of a Dunfermline Linen factory, command universal admiration. The workshops give evidence of full modern equipment, as they are rapidly passed through; the rock driller is seen in operation; the electric plant which sends light to the remotest parts of the pit and makes the night almost as bright as the day at the pit head, is explained; the screening plant, which sifts and separates the different classes of coal, carrying with them a minimum of manual labour and guidance to the wagons ready to be loaded and despatched to their destination is curiously examined. The longer one gazes and takes note of the constancy of the supply of loaded hutches raised to the mouth of the shafts, directed to the railway that passes in front of the weighman and the checkweighman, fastening themselves in the revolving cages that release them after they have discharged their load, to be again sent down the pit, the more he realises that no waste of time or of material is allowed, and the possibility of error is reduced as nearly as may be to the vanishing point. For, while the different classes of coal are passed along the courses assigned to them, and are examined by the women pickers who are sharp to detect and to remove stones or other undesirable material, provision is made for the gathering up of the fragments that nothing be lost. The small coal which passes through the screening jiggers is conveyed by a trough conveyor on a pair of small coal jiggers which divides it into the different sizes of nuts and delivers this on to the nut picking hands viz., one bar band for chirls. One ditto for trebles, and one plate band for doubles. The singles are dropped direct into a wagon, and the duff on the trough conveyor which takes it to the boilers.

A considerable number of the party having donned waterproof caps and jackets were first lowered to the bottom of the shaft and made their way nearly a mile and a half distance to the coal face where they saw the wonderful and powerful Diamond Coal Cutter at work in the Jubilee Seam, which has a rib of fireclay and course coal about 5 ins thick in the centre of the seam, which is about 5 feet thick. The machine undercuts 5 feet 6 inches and cuts at a rate of 20 yards per hour along the face. The greater portion of the company, including the ladies, made a much shorter journey when they reached the bottom of the shaft, but they saw a great deal which interested and delighted them, the comfortable stables and well cared for ponies receiving their due share of admiration.

Meanwhile, a resurvey of the various apparatus and operation at the pit head deepened the impression of the completeness and the efficiency of the equipment. Traces of the presence of the master-mind directing and controlling the powerful machinery and the labyrinth of complicated processes became more discernible. The visitor in the cage may not know whether they are ascending or descending, but the man who guides the winding engine knows where they are in their journey through the darkness. He regulates the speed of the descent or ascent, and stops the cage at the appointed place with a nicety suggestive of the line which is a twelfth of an inch. The fan, which

raises a storm and wind worthy of King Aeolus himself, and gives off 160,000 cubic feet of air for the maintenance of ventilation and of the healthy temperature underneath, is under the control of another engineman, as calm and serene as old Neptune, and much more watchful in the preservation of his sovereignty. And while air is artificially poured into and diffused throughout the workings, water is taken out through the agency of the huge main pump at the rate of 1300 gallons per minute. Each man, too, seems to know his place and do his work without rest and without haste. Mr Muir has been remarkably successful in surrounding himself with a staff of capable officers and steady workmen. And he deserves all the effective assistance he receives. For, while he is enthusiastic about his pit equipment and the remarkable success which has attended the working of the colliery, he is still more enthusiastic about his men. With every department of the work and of the machinery he is familiar; he is a born leader of men as well as a skilful engineer; and one of the secrets of his success is the completeness of his sympathy. He makes it his aim to raise Bowhill Colliery to a proud pre-eminence for comfort and safety. Yet knowing that perfect immunity from accident cannot be guaranteed, he has a full ambulance equipment always in readiness, and when a casualty of any kind does occur, the workmen all know that no one is more deeply grieved than their highly capable manager.

It may be added that the Company have built 274 new houses for the use of their workmen, all of which are fitted with the latest improvements. They also own 700 wagons - 500 to carry ten tons, and 200 to carry twelve tons of coal. There is a brickwork in connection with the colliery, which produces about eight to nine thousand common bricks per day. Besides this, the handmade bricks of fireclay and composition of various shapes and sizes and vents, chimney cans, etc. are also made in large quantities.

J.P."

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 1904.

THE WAY AND WORK OF REFORM.

COWDENBEATH.

For the subjoined admirable and on the whole cheering account of the good work in this active and industrial centre we are indebted to the Rev. James Gilmour: -

The articles in the "Express" and "Journal" on "The Way and Work of Reform" provide deeply interesting reading for all who are alive to the problems presented by the rapid influx of population to our mining centres, and it must be a great encouragement to all who are exercised about the solution of such problems to find an influential paper like the "Journal" which has always given prominence to mining matters, interesting in itself practically in these vital subjects.

A TRANSFORMATION.

In trying to estimate the situation accurately, care is needed to guard against the danger of underestimating the progress that has already been made on the one hand, and of cherishing unwarrantable satisfaction on the other hand. If we may speak for Cowdenbeath for example, the Cowdenbeath of to-day is no more like the Cowdenbeath of eighteen or twenty years ago than is darkness to sunrise. Not merely has the town grown and the population increased, but institutions of all kind have sprung up, so that the town shares in the complex and many sided life intellectual, social, and religious, of any well-ordered and enterprising community. On the other hand there are great social evils still to be deplored. Intemperance prevails with non-church going, indifference, and in many quarters that want of refined taste and regard for the courtesies of life that are easily within reach of the working classes.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS.

In thinking of the ameliorating agencies and influences that have been at work, one naturally begins with the mining companies, whose types of houses in recent years has been a great improvement over the earlier specimens. It would be difficult we imagine, nowadays finding houses with no coal house, washing house, or scullery. Even w.c's are being added wherever the water supply is sufficient for their introduction. We have long felt, however, that it is a great pity a bath is not added. The time has surely come when in every miner's house a bath ought to be considered a *sine quo non*. That is not a luxury at all, but a simple necessity of life, and would conduce alike to morals and to health, as the present plan for performing all the ablutions in the kitchen is neither conducive to that comfort there ought to be in the home, nor that refinement of feeling that ought to be aimed at in the humblest dwelling. A few pounds extra would easily provide this in the building of the house,

and the cost could be recouped by a slightly increased charge in the weekly rent. We would consider this one of the most elementary of the “works and ways of reform”. In the taste for gardening there is room still for great advance. Neglect of the ground provided is no doubt due to in many cases to the insecurity of tenure felt by the occupant of a Company’s house, changes in the sphere of work being frequent and the workman having to leave the house when he leaves the Company’s employ. The difference is at once seen where the occupant is the tenant of a private house, where the gardens, as a rule, are cultivated, and the feus properly fenced in and separated. Everything, therefore, that tends to arrest the migratory habits of men, and to root them in a particular community, tends to be the refinements of their tastes and gradual elevation in the social scale.

A PLEA FOR MUNICIPAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Coming now to speak of the educative effect of municipal institutions and the work of self-government on individual and social life, the opinion may here be confidently expressed that not a little of the progress and enterprise of Cowdenbeath in recent years has been the formation of the town into a Police Burgh, which took place fourteen or fifteen years ago. So self-evident is this to all who have watched the progress of the town, that is simply marvellous to outsiders to understand why there should be any difficulty in readily bestowing these powers upon Kelty. We have no hesitation in predicting that if Kelty is allowed to adopt the Act, and train its citizens in the art of self-government, the town will at once forge ahead, and make rapid progress as Cowdenbeath has done; whereas, if in deference to the County Council these powers are withheld Kelty’s progress we do not doubt, will be effectually arrested. Self-government is the condition of physical improvement. Since these powers were vested in our town our streets have been paved and named, water supply improved, lighting modernised, a drainage scheme undertaken, a Sanitary Inspector appointed, the cleansing of the streets taken over by the Commissioners, justice dispensed, and so forth. All may not have been done that needs to be done. One of the difficulties of a new town is that burdens accumulate so rapidly that the most zealous Council cannot move so fast by reason of the taxation as their ambition would dictate. But it is undeniable that since that period was reached a zeal for advance has characterised the town, and amid all the difficulties by which they are surrounded the municipal authorities deserve all credit for the pains they have taken in the town’s behalf. And this after all is only one measure of the progress. The years have seen a wonderful growth in capacity for office and in the power of self-government on the part of our citizens. So much is this the case that for the immediate future there seems no lack of men worthy of being entrusted with the most responsible offices.

EDUCATIONAL EFFICIENCY

Similar remarks might be made with respect to the School Board and our education institutions. In a parish almost half the size of Dunfermline for population, the work of the Board for the past few years has been no sinecure. School after school has had to be built or added to, and pace kept with the modern requirements. But so well has this been done that the Board has under its care not only some of the best appointed

schools in Fife, with a full staff of thoroughly qualified teachers, but has added on cooking and continuation classes, besides co-operating with the County Council for teaching of mining and other subjects. The Board may have erred in some part of its policy. Until recently it steadily resisted a scale of wages, and a good deal of dissatisfaction was thereby caused. Happily this has now been made right. But even with such drawbacks very good results have been produced, reports in some cases being so excellent that better results could hardly be looked for.

FAITHFUL CHURCH SERVICES.

And now, ere closing, a word for the churches. Let it not be forgotten what the churches have done. For them no less than for others the situation has had its difficulties and problems. Take the problem of church accommodation alone. Within the last dozen years or so, no fewer than seven new churches have been built in the parish of Beath alone, besides the extension of others, and a number of manses. When it is remembered how much of the money had to be raised from the outside (they are all free of debt), and how much of the labour necessarily fell on the ministers and office-bearers, it is obvious that something has not merely been attempted, but done. Not only so, but in connection with most of these churches there are now flourishing congregations, with well-equipped Sabbath Schools, Bible Classes, Temperance, and Missionary Societies, Mother's and Cottage meeting, Lodging-house work, and all the complex organisations connected nowadays with our congregational work. If notwithstanding many are still outside the church, let it be remembered that many of them are not the lapsed properly speaking, but persons who have never had a church connection at all. With a little more time many of these may yet be gathered in. Rome was not built in a day. On the other hand, there is room yet in certain directions for additional power and more abundant work. It must surely be patent that a town like Cowdenbeath, with a large non-church going population, would be none the worse of a town missionary. Indeed, each of the churches to be properly manned, would need an addition to the minister a missionary to go from house to house and do the excavation work. The churches hitherto, not being self-supporting, have had some difficulty in pressing this claim. But now that that stage is being approached, it may be time to consider whether a claim like that might not be urged upon our Church Committees.

COUNTER ATTRACTIONS TO THE PUBLIC-HOUSE

There is another direction in which the needs of the community are still unsolved, viz., in a combined effort, on social and gospel lines, to provide counter attractions to the Public-house on the Saturday nights during the winter months. This is done to a small extent already on Gospel lines, but the effort would have to be on a much greater scale. Something was attempted last winter by the Public-house Society in the way of providing entertainment by popular concerts. But we have little faith in mere entertainment doing much lasting good. Man needs more than to be amused. Man needs to be saved, and experience has proved that nothing will do this but the Gospel. It has been impossible hitherto to get this dream for the Saturday night fulfilled. Ministers cannot do everything. If the people on Sabbath are to be fed, the minister must be some nights in his study. And even as it is during the winter months, the calls

and demands upon the poor minister are appalling. At the very least it would need some intelligent layman with some means, and good social position to help. Once that is gained we shall feel that another stage in our social development has been reached, and that inroads into the territory of the enemy might be more rapid. Meanwhile, it will do no harm, and perhaps unexpected good, to have the subject properly ventilated.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1904.

THE WAY AND WORK OF REFORM.

THE VILLAGE OF HALBEATH.

Mining has unfortunately ceased in Halbeath. Happily, however, the cessation of the "only industry" has not meant the effacement or even the decay of the village. The miners have found employment in the adjoining collieries, and a considerable number of their daughters have obtained profitable and congenial work in the Dunfermline factories and shops. Hence no sensible decline of the population has followed the stoppage of the coal hewing. As a matter of fact, every dwelling house seems occupied, and the demand for accommodation is in excess of the supply.

For Halbeath has many attentions for the industrious miner, although residence in it may mean for him a considerable journey by road or rail to his place of work. The people have for generations possessed a good character. There are families still resident in the village who can trace decent from the earliest miners. They come of a stock not given to vagrancy. The advantages and comforts secured for them during the long period the coal was worked by the late Mr Wallace confirmed the tendency to root. And now under the benevolent autocracy of Mr R.W. Wallace, the attractions of Halbeath as a place of residence for a mining industrial population are being most pleasantly and honourably prolonged.

The houses are kept in good repair, and most of them are provided with considerable garden ground. An abundant supply of excellent water is obtained from the Chant spring near Keirsbeath, with the Dunfermline Glendevon source as a reserve. Though paving stones are little known, the roads, thanks to the position of the village, as well as the watchfulness of the estate staff under the direction of Mr Dewar, are seldom sloppy or rutty. In the winter nights the ways are lit with oil-lamps; and alike in summer and winter the village presents an appearance of a place well cared for and occupied by law-abiding, self-respecting people.

There is no resident policeman and there is no church. At times it may be that want of both are felt. Yet, but for the occasional disturbance caused mainly by the belated Saturday night travellers, passing from the station to other villages, there is really no work for a resident constable. And though there is no Halbeath Church, it cannot be said that religious destitution prevails. For several generations Halbeath families have been connected with Dunfermline congregations, chiefly by St Margaret's and Queen Anne's Street, with Crossgates, with Mossgreen, and also with Townhill. Hence, though it may be the attendance at worship is not so regular and full as it might be, the population cannot be described as unappreciative of religious ordinances. Moreover, Mr Wallace supplements this ecclesiastical connection and oversight by the services of Mr Duncan, who regularly does missionary work in Halbeath and Townhill. Another auxiliary is the branch of the Boys and Girls Religious Society, conducted by

Mr Adamson, Mr Black, and others. The attendance every Sabbath afternoon is crowded, and the service is much valued by the parents of the boys and girls.

In connection with this Society a Christmas entertainment and a flower show are held every year. In both of these efforts for the brightening of the village life, Mr Wallace takes the liveliest interest. To both he contributes liberally, and he heartily co-operates with the local management. He presides at the Christmas festivities as one who enjoys association with the boys and girls, and last year his family and friends supplied the musical entertainment, which was of a high order. As summer draws near, the boys and girls who mean to enter for the competitions at the horticultural exhibition obtain plants and flowers from his gardener, Mr Marshall, one of the kindest of men; and during the intervening weeks the conservatory treasures which brightens their homes receive no small amount of anxious attention from the young nurseryman and nurserywomen. Local committees are also from time to time brought into being for the purpose of organising the annual games or developing any new project promotive of the interests of the community. Mr Wallace's counsel and help are always available, for though he resides chiefly in Edinburgh and has many public and business interests to attend to he is a frequent visitor to Halbeath. His influence is mainly responsible for the continuance of the good name of the village as a place illustrating the way and work of reform urgently needed in many other mining communities. Not the least happy outcome of his elevating influence is the deliverance of the village proper from the presence of a public-house.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL
SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1904.

THE WAY AND WORK OF REFORM.

MOSSGREEN AND FORDELL.

Mossgreen is practically a continuation of Crossgates, and Fordell lies about quarter of a mile to the south-east of it.

Both are mining villages given existence to by the neighbouring collieries. Fordell has a population of between 200 and 300. In it and Mossgreen the houses are mostly of one storey, each tenant having in the majority of cases two apartments, but in some only one. The greater number of them were built to accommodate the pit workers, and are now of a type not conforming to the ideal of the present generation. Those which have been erected by feuars are much larger and more airy. The colliery houses are rented on the fortnightly payment principle, which, while it may have advantages in some respects, has its corresponding disadvantages - one in particular being that the people take less interest in their dwellings and surroundings.

Small in comparison with its not far distant neighbour, the colliery is not wrought on the principle of getting the whole of the coal out at as early a date as possible. Knowing that the exhaustion of the coal may be considered synonymous with the extinction of the village, the proprietors proceed with the work in leisurely fashion, benevolently keeping in view the welfare of the villagers as well as their own property.

Mossgreen and Fordell are included in the Crossgates special water district, and thus receive the same supply as their more populous neighbour. Both were also included in the special drainage district, and were compelled to pay for drainage while they had none. Naturally these circumstances caused a good deal of discontent, and within the last few weeks Fordell was successful in an appeal to the Sheriff to be released from the bondage imposed by the District Committee.

Mossgreen Parish Church, with the Rev. John Clarke at its head, supplies the spiritual wants of both places, and the beautiful churchyard which encircles it forms the only burial ground for the whole of Crossgates district. It provides a resting place for some of those who heroically perished in the Hill of Beath white damp disaster and the Donibristle moss inflow catastrophe. One church service is held regularly at 12 o'clock, and during the winter months it is supplemented by an evening service. Attached to the church there is an active branch of the British Women's Temperance Association and a band of hope; so that the sympathies of adults as well as juveniles is enlisted and encouraged. While the church services are well attended, the people, as a class, are not inclined towards sacred ordinance. Two-thirds of them are not attached to a church - a fact that seems to call for effort on the part of Christian workers. The

minister, who by the way will soon celebrate his semi-jubilee, is a hard worker, and beloved by his congregation.

Fordell, than which thirty years ago no more attractive village existed in Fife, has to some extent fallen from its pride of place. Its inhabitants are more migratory than they used to be - a circumstance which many partly account for the lagging. The value of friendly societies is recognised, the people being members of the Crossgates lodges, although the Foresters have a meeting place of their own in Fordell. There is a reading room and a library in Fordell, these are maintained by voluntary subscriptions and encouraged by the superiors, the Earl and Countess of Buckinghamshire. A literary society, prompted recently in Crossgates, is well patronised, many of the members hailing from Mossgreen and Crossgates. Of public-houses there are none in either village, but a wayside tavern at Coaledge - a few houses on the highway facing Fordell village - supplies the drinking wants of the district. There is no public lighting, a drawback which is much felt in the winter months, when the roads are often in a state of puddle.

Fordell at one time could boast of a brass band, but it became defunct, and no effort has been made to bring it to life again. For many years Mossgreen and Fordell were justly celebrated for the excellence of their gardens, but their glory in that respect has to a certain extent vanished, and now one can see whole stretches of fertile soil run over with weeds and grass. The flower show is still an institution in the villages, and is encouraged by the Earl and Countess of Buckinghamshire, who give special prizes annually. There are many clever growers in the district, and the exhibition is one which compares favourably with those of other villages similarly situated. Mossgreen School is one of the prettiest in Fife, its quaint architecture and floral beautification readily catching the eye of the visitor. For nearly 50 years the educational interests of the children were presided over by Mr James Currie. Mr Currie has been succeeded by his son, who worthily upholds his fathers reputation. The school, which is under Dalgety Board, has an average attendance of 200 bright and intelligent children.

THE DUNFERMLINE JOURNAL
SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1904.

*DUNFERMLINE AND KINROSS U.F.
PRESBYTERY.*

THE NEW CHURCH AT LOCHORE.

The United Free Church Presbytery of Dunfermline and Kinross met in the Hall of the United Free Abbey Church on Tuesday, the Rev. T.E. Miller, moderator, presiding.

THE NEW MODERATOR.

Mr W.C. Dickson, Muckhart, was appointed moderator for the ensuing six months.

A KINROSS MINISTER'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

The Clerk (the Rev. D.W.B. Flemming), read a letter from the Rev. John Wright, Kinross, thanking the Presbytery for the interest they had taken in his Diamond Jubilee.

The Rev. W. Stephen, Kelty, referring to the matter, said that he had had the honour of being present at the diamond jubilee meeting, at which there was a large congregation present. Mr Wright was in wonderful health. To the address granted to Mr Wright by the congregation on that occasion, Mr Wright replied at considerable length without a single note, testifying to his physical and mental strength. He (Mr Stephen) had the honour of reading the Presbytery's minute, and he need hardly say it gave great satisfaction to Mr Wright and to the congregation. He thought they would all admit it was a masterpiece, and reflected great credit upon their Clerk. (Applause).

LOCHORE NEW CHURCH.

The Rev. James Brown, Lochgelly, said he had pleasure in intimating that the new church at Lochore would be formally opened on 11th May by the Rev. G. Robson, doctor of divinity, moderator of the United Free Church of Scotland. He was glad to know that on the day the church would be opened it would be free of debt. (Applause). All the estimates which had been given in, including extra work as well, would be met by the money they were to receive. The furnishings and other odds and ends had still to be met. The people themselves had contributed a considerable sum towards the cost of the furnishings. Still there was no reason why any congregation which had not yet made a collection in aid of the church should not do so, because means would be found of using it. Some time ago the Fife Coal Company gave £200, and Mr John Wilson, M.P. for the Falkirk Burghs, also contributed £200 besides the site. The Wilson & Clyde Coal Company sent £100. So far as could be ascertained, there still remained a balance of £208 before the church could be opened clear of debt.

He indicated the state of matters to Mr Wilson, and within two days a promise came for another £100. Communicating afterwards with Mr Thomas Aitken, chairman of the Fife Coal Company, he mentioned what Mr Wilson had done, and told him there was still a balance of £108. That morning he got a warm letter from Mr Carlow, the managing director of the Fife Coal Company, intimating that the company would wipe off the deficit. In his letter Mr Carlow expressed the opinion that the workmen ought to show a little more desire to provide buildings for themselves, but owing to the great interest he (Mr Brown) had taken in the work, they had agreed to second his efforts. Mr Brown's desire was that the Presbytery should pass a minute recording their warm thanks to Mr Wilson and his company for their beneficence, and to Mr Aitken and the directors of the Fife Coal Company for their generous contributions on behalf of the population that had gathered in Glencraig and Lochore. He might further add that there was a rumour that the building of the new Mary Pit would be established elsewhere, but he knew that they would be placed within a stone cast of the church. The hope was expressed that the new church would be a great spiritual power in the community already in the district, as well as to the numbers of people who were expected to come into the district within a year or two. The church collections had been the only disappointment. He would not care to go into details at present, but he might say that the churches in Lochgelly had given about one-half got by collection, and it had been contributed by subscription a good deal more than the subscriptions and collections got in Dunfermline.

The moderator said that Mr Brown's statement was a very gratifying one, notwithstanding the little shadow which had been cast over the collections of the Presbytery.

The Rev. Mr Miller, Milnathort, said that not more than one-third of the churches made any response to the appeal for a collection. It looked a little invidious that poor congregations should make sacrifices while the larger ones did nothing in the matter. He thought the Presbytery should have something to say on the matter.

Mr Brown said that the congregations who had not subscribed had failed to avail themselves of helping spiritual agencies in a desolate population.

The matter here dropped.