|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Circuits. | Assize Towns since 1672. c. 16. | Shires. | Area  square  miles. | Popula­  tion.  1831. | Number  of  Sheriff  Substi­  tutes. | Court Places. | Number  of  Procuators in each. | Number of ordinary ac- ions brought into Sheriff- Court, 1828-1832. | Number of causes advo­cated and appealed to Justiciary. |
|  | Inverary,.... 20 Geo. 2. | Argyle | 3800 | 100,973 | 3 | Inverary,  Campbelton,...  Tobermory,.... | 12 6 | 3033 | 9 |
| Western |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 257 | 14,151 | 1 | Bute, | 4 | 367 | 1 |
| Circuit,... |  |  | Stirling | 40 |  |
|  |  | Stirling, | 489 | 72,621  23,801 | 2 | Falkirk,  j Clackmannan,.  Kinross, |  |  |
| - | Stirling, | Clackmannan,. Kinross, | 131 | 2 | 7  7 |  |  |
|  | 504 | 128,839 |  | Cupar, | 32 12 | 2442 | 34 |
|  |  | Fife | 2 | Dunfermline,... |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | Perth, | 71  6 | 6823 | 85 |
|  | Perth, | Perth, | 2588 142,804 | | 2 | Dunblane,  Forfar, |
|  | Forfar, ..... | 840 | 139,606 |  | 3531 |
|  |  | 2 | Dundee, |  | 7 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Kincardine, | 317 | 31,431 | 1 | Kincardine,.... | 1166 | 27 |
|  |  | Aberdeen, | 1985 | 177,657  48,604 | 1 | Aberdeen, | 129 | 6033 | 71 |
|  | Aberdeen,... < |  | 500 | 1 | Banff, | 28 | 2407 | 11 |
| Northern Circuit,... | Moray, |  | 23 | 1438 | 8 |
|  | Elgin,  Nairn, | 1040 | 43,585 | 4 | Nairn, | 157 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Inverness, | 4600 | 94,797 | 4 | Inverness  Fort William,.. | 25  4 5 | 2385 | 28 |
|  |  |  |  |  | Skye  Newton, |  |  |
|  |  | Cromarty, | 2836 | 74,820 | 4 | Dingwall, | **11** | 1938 | 18 |
|  | Inverness,... < | Ross, **J** |  | Stornoway, | 2 |
|  |  | Sutherland, | 1754 | 25,518 | 1 | Dornoch,  Tongue, |  | 675 |  |
|  |  | Caithness, | 618 | 34,52f | 1 | Caithness,  ∫ Kirkwall, |  | 1280 | 3 |
|  |  | Orkney and Zet |  | 6 | 1106 | 8 |
|  |  | land, | 1325 | 58,239 | 2 | Lerwick, |  |

The divisions which are recognized under this head are counties or shires, and parishes. Of the *counties,* the origin of which is very ancient, and has not been ascertained, a list, and other particulars respecting them, have already been given. They are thirty-three in number, but most of them are subdivided by local acts of parliament into two or more districts, for the purpose of police and internal econo­my ; and several of them comprehend a variety of terri­torial divisions, founded on the natural circumstances of the country. Thus the county of Berwick is popularly divided into the three districts of the Merse, Lauderdale, and Lammermuir ; Lanarkshire into the upper, middle, and lower wards ; Ayrshire into Kyle, Cunningham, and Car­rick ; and in the extensive Highland counties, the subdi­visions are still more numerous. There is no trace in Scot­land of the minor divisions of the English counties, called hundreds, wapentakes, and the like. Of the judicial divi­sions of Scotland an account will be found in this article under the head of Judicial Establishments. Respecting the date of the erection of *parishes,* there have been vari­ous conjectures. They were purely an ecclesiastical regu­lation, and could not have been formed till the Christian system had been generally received, and its preachers be­come numerous ; and as this division, and the necessary previous ecclesiastical establishment, infer no inconsidera­ble degree of civilization, it is highly probable that it did

not take place before the ninth or the tenth century.@@1 Mr. Chalmers supposes that parishes were gradually formed after the year 843 ; but that they existed in the time of Malcolm III., who died in 1093, is ascertained by authen­tic records.@@2 The number of parishes has not been uni­form. Previously to the Reformation the bishops possessed the power of uniting or disjoining parishes. Between this period and the Union, in 1707, the authority was trans­ferred from the bishops and vested in several successive commissions of the Scottish parliament. In 1707, parlia­ment vested this power in the Court of Session, but confined the power of the court to cases where consent had previ­ously been given by persons possessing three-fourths of the valued rental of the parish ; and this is the existing law. The disjoining or union of parishes is, therefore, attended with considerable difficulty, and very rarely takes place, except in ci­ties where the consent of the municipal authorities, if patrons of the parish, and of the presbytery of the bounds, is sufficient for the purpose. Hence in Edinburgh five new parishes have been erected out of the parish of St. Cuthbert’s, within the last forty years. The number of parishes is at present 916, ex­clusive of what arc commonly called *quoad sacra* parishes. These latter parishes have been formed in either of the two following ways. First, owing to the inconvenient extent of parishes in the Highlands, and the consequent distance of many of the people from the parish church, missionaries

**@@@, Murray's Literary History of Galloway, 2d edit. 1832, p. 7.**

**@@@\* Caledonia, vol. i. p. 23.**