operation, two for the support of the aged poor, and two for educating the young. One of the former has an income approaching to L.3000 annually, wholly arising from land ; but when public burdens are paid, with necessary repairs, there remains scarcely one half for the support of the poor, who receive from 8s. to 1s. 6d. per week, according to cir­cumstances. Two of the others have incomes of about L.700 each, derived in the same way, and bearing the same burdens. The fourth has the interest of L.4000. The two latter educate, clothe, and allow 2s. 6d. a week to between forty and fifty boys. The funds of the whole of these are distributed to parties designated by the founders ; all hav­ing their operation according to the old constitution of the borough. They are, like every thing else in the town, un­der the patronage and management of the town council, with the addition in one case of the first, and in another of the second, minister. In addition to these, the late Mr John Maclaren of Liverpool, a native of Stirling, has be­queathed a sum, the amount of which is not yet fully known, for the purpose of founding and endowing schools upon a most liberal scale, for the instruction, not wholly gratui­tous, but at a very low rate, of children from four to six­teen years of age. A clause in his will provides that no clergyman shall have any control or management of his fund. One of the above charities had an hospital built for the accommodation of twelve decayed members of the in­corporation of guildry, but nobody could be persuaded to inhabit it, although pleasantly situated. The consequence was, that the funds accumulated, until what was originally L.2222 sterling, has now increased to about L.3000 yearly. As in these circumstances the intentions of John Cowane, the founder, could not be carried into effect, the town coun­cil and the first minister, who are the governors, have for a long period been in the habit, and latterly with the consent of the Court of Session, of dividing the funds among the poor belonging to the incorporation, so that now upwards of 180 persons are deriving benefit to the amount of from 8s. to 1s 6d. a week, from a fund which was intended for the support of only twelve. The hospital stands near the East and West Churches, ornamented with a small spire and a statue of Cowane ; and its hall is now used for the meetings of the guildry. The other charity had also an hospital, which is still standing, without however being the property of the charity ; and the funds are divided in a simi­lar manner among the poor of the seven incorporated trades. They are all at present in a thriving condition. Besides the above charities, the general poor of the town are sup­ported by the kirk-session, the various churches to which they belong, and by a voluntary subscription denominated the poor-scheme; the people preferring this mode to a regu­lar assessment, of which they have a salutary dread. There is also a public dispensary, which affords relief to many. Notwithstanding all these provisions, public mendicancy is exceedingly common ; nor do the authorities, from false no­tions of humanity, exert themselves to put a stop to this prac­tice, so degrading to the poor, and annoying to the public.

The literature of the place is sustained by two reading-rooms, one of which belongs to artisans. The public library, already noticed, is under excellent management, excepting that the entry-money and annual payment are both too high ; it has about 140 subscribers. The School of Arts, or Mechanics Institution, generally supports a course of lectures in the winter season, attended by from 200 to 300 males and females. It possesses also a chemical and elec­trical apparatus, and various other philosophical instruments, and something like the foundation of a museum. To the care of this institution, a gentleman in Manchester, a native of Stirling, has committed a number of fine casts, princi­pally from the antique, which form a small but interest­ing gallery of statuary. It is daily open for the inspec­tion of the public. This society has also an excellent li­brary, consisting of upwards of 1000 volumes, which are very much read. The price of admittance to all the bene­fits of the institution is only four shillings a year. All that is wanting to render it a most useful institution, is a house to contain its literary wealth. In almost every one of the churches and chapels there is also a congregational library, chiefly consisting of theological, although some admit histo­rical works. Besides those of a general nature, there is also a consulting library for the legal profession, a medical, and likewise a horticultural library. There is likewise a singular kind of library, of which Stirling is the centre. It circulates among the landed gentlemen chiefly in the neighbourhood, and the subscription is at least two guineas a year. The funds are expended upon publications of the current year, at the end of which they are sold, and the proceeds are add­ed to the stated contributions. This town has two weekly newspapers, the Stirling Journal and the Stirling Observer, the former Tory, and the latter Whig, both having an aver­age provincial circulation.

The chief article of domestic trade in Stirling, situated as it is in a large and fertile district, now under the best culture, is grain of all kinds, amounting, it is said, to the value of upwards of L.500,000 annually, there being a great deal of barley consumed in the distilleries and breweries, which are numerous and upon extensive scales around Stirling. The manufactures are chiefly tartans, carpets, plaid-shawls, trouser-stuffs, and wool-spinning, which is be­ginning to be conducted with spirit in the town. Stirling shalloons, which figured so long in the statistics of the town, have now wholly disappeared, and their place is supplied by the articles enumerated above. Coach-building seems also to thrive here, as one establishment employs nearly seventy people, that of Mr Kinross, who within the last twelvemonth has been honoured with the distinction of coach-maker to the queen for Scotland. There are other two establish­ments, one of which has been lately commenced. To faci­litate commercial and manufacturing industry, there are four stationary banks, and one which does business only on one day in each week, namely, on Friday, the market-day. They are all branches of banking establishments in Edinburgh or Glasgow. The commerce of the town is very limited, con­sisting chiefly of timber, grain for the distilleries, and a few other articles of little importance. There is a line of packets between Stirling and Leith, and another conveyance for goods by steam twice a week. But until the river be deep­ened, little improvement can be expected in this respect, as vessels above seventy tons burden cannot reach the town even at spring tide. The town council of Stirling is rather an important body, having the management of considerable funds ; for, besides the sum already mentioned belonging to the charities, the town’s finances, arising from salmon-fish­eries, customs, shore-dues, &c., amount to between L.3000 and L.4000 ; all of which revenue is expended for the bene­fit of the public, in paving the streets, building and repair­ing the public markets, and other purposes, as has been al­ready mentioned.

The castle, at the western extremity of the eminence upon which the town is built, is of greater antiquity than the town, and still exhibits marks of royal magnificence. Here James II. was born ; and here also with his own hand he stabbed William earl of Douglas. The hall built by James III., who resided much here, for the meeting of par­liament, is now used as barracks. The chapel royal, built by James VI. (who was educated here under the tuition of the celebrated George Buchanan) for the baptism of his son Prince Henry, and which was at that time the scene of one of the most pompous ceremonies ever exhibited in Scot­land, is now fitted up as a store-room and armoury. The palace of James V. is a large quadrangular building, orna­mented externally with many grotesque figures, and enclos­ing a small court called the lion’s den. The lower story is