Irish descent. From these circumstances it may be pre­sumed, what is really the case, that the feudal feeling exists more strongly and generally in Wigtonshire than in any other county in the south of Scotland. Superstitious ob­servances and traditionary legends abound. Belief in witches, in ghosts, in lucky and unlucky days, and other si­milar hereditary notions, are common throughout the county, particularly in the more remote and thinly inhabited pa­rishes.

Poor-rates are unknown in this county, with the excep­tion of one parish. Out of the whole population, there are only about 700 receiving parochial aid ; that is, only one person in fifty-two is a pauper, being less than a third of the average of England. The aggregate annual amount distri­buted among these 700 persons is about L.1375, being ra­ther less than L.2 for each pauper, or at the extraordinary low rate of 6d. per head of population. The lowness of this rate will be better appreciated when we state, that, pre­viously to the new poor-law amendment act in 1834, the average burden in England was thirty-three times greater.

The climate, though characterized by considerable varia­tions, and though, on the whole, subject to moisture, is re­garded as salubrious. The instances of persons being able to follow their usual occupations, even at the age of eighty, are common. Alexander Credie, a native of the Machers, died in 1824, at the venerable age of 108.

The physical appearance of Wigtonshire is not varied. Even the district called the Moors is not distinguished by any considerable hills or eminences ; and it has been re­marked that there is no county in Scotland that rises so little above the level of the sea. Nor are there any im­portant rivers ; at least none of them is navigable except the Cree and the Bladenoch, both of which flow into Wigton Bay ; the former being navigable for six miles, the lat­ter for two. But, though not possessed of large and na­vigable rivers, this county abounds with spacious bays and harbours, namely, Lochryan on the north-west, which stretches about nine miles inland till it reaches Stranraer, where it terminates, its breadth varying from two to four miles ; Luce Bay on the south, stretching inward about fifteen miles, its breadth regularly graduating from twenty miles at its mouth ; and Wigton Bay, varying from eight miles in width, till it reaches the Cree, a distance of about ten miles. These two latter bays form two remarkable promontories, the Borough Head on the south-east, and the Mull of Galloway on the south-west, the two most southerly points in Scotland ; the latter being about one mile and a half south of the former. The most important har­bours are Carty on the Cree, Wigton on the Bladenoch, Garlieston on Wigton Bay, Isle of Whithorn near the Bo­rough Head, Glenluce and Sandhead on Luce Bay, Port Logan and Portpatrick on the Irish Channel, and Stran­raer and Cairnryan on Lochryan. The fresh-water lochs, though numerous, only occupy an aggregate of seven and a half square miles.

The county abounds with towns and villages along the coast, but none of them is of great importance. Of Wig­ton, Whithorn, and Stranraer, a separate account has been given. Portpatrick, with a population of 1010, is situated on the Irish Channel, nearly opposite to Donaghadee, be­tween which places two government mail steamers ply daily. The harbour is undergoing great repairs, and two piers are erecting by act of parliament ; the estimated ex­pense is L.150,000. Glenluce, population 821, is situ­ated within 500 yards of the river Luce, and at the head of the bay of that name. Newton-Stewart, population 2241, lies on the banks of the Cree, eight miles north of Wig- ton. Garlieston, population 587, and the Isle of Whithorn, population 697, are both situated on the west coast of Wigton Bay, the latter being the port of Whithorn. Port-William, population 510, on Luce Bay, possesses a good harbour.

The soil of the three districts into which Wigtonshire is divided, the Rhinns, the Machers, and the Moors, is very different. The soil of the first two is for the most part a hazelly loam, dry, and well adapted for turnip husbandry ; but in the barony of Baldoon, which is regarded as the Carse of Gowrie of the south of Scotland, and in the low- lying lands between Wigton and Newton-Stewart, there is a great extent (above 25,000 acres) of rich alluvial soil ; while the remaining district (the Moors) is bleak and barren, chiefly devoted to pasture, with few spots fit for tillage, great portions of it being mossy land, partially covered with water, such as the *flow* of Glenluce. The most approved system of agriculture has been everywhere introduced, particularly in the Rhinns and Machers. Of the relative proportions of land in crop and in pasture, a correct idea may be formed from the fact, that out of 288,960 English acres which the county contains, 101,136, or about thirty-five per cent., are under cultivation ; while 187,824, or about sixty-five per cent., are in pasture, including 4265 under wood. Property in land in Wigtonshire is very little subdivided. There are four or five large proprietors whose united estates em­brace about the half of the county. There are compara­tively few proprietors whose estates are under L.500. The average rent of land in 1810 was 8s. 6d. per acre ; the ag­gregate rent in 1837 was L. 175,000, being about 12s. an acre. The valued rental of the county is L.67,642 Scotish, old valuation. Leases generally extend to nineteen years. Two agricultural societies have long existed in the county; and the class of farmers, in point of general intelligence and professional skill, is highly respectable.

Wigtonshire is devoid of mineral wealth, nor can it be said to possess any considerable manufactures. There is a whiskey distillery at the Bridge of Bladenoch, within a mile of Wigton, which consumes yearly about 16,000 bushels of barley, and gives employment to between twenty and thirty persons. A woollen manufactory was established in the parish of Kirkowan in 1822, which in 1838 employed thirty- nine hands. There are several small breweries scattered throughout the county. The salmon and white fishery is carried on at the mouths of some of the rivers and along various places on the coast, but to no very considerable ex­tent. Exclusively of fishing boats and steamers, the county has ninety-six vessels; tonnage, 5371.

But Wigtonshire, from the general progress of the arts of peace, now enjoys advantages unknown there even a few years ago. Remote as is her situation, she is reaping all the advantages which steam navigation is calculated to con­fer. Two steam-boats regularly ply between her leading ports and Whitehaven and Liverpool, so that a ready and advantageous market is opened for her sheep, black cat­tle, and agricultural produce. A farmer can now send his stock and his corn to Liverpool, and get them disposed of in the shortest time, at the market price, and for ready money. Formerly the case was quite otherwise ; corn­dealers and drovers travelled the country, buying grain and cattle, with the view of shipping them to an English market. Their purchases were seldom if ever made with cash : on the contrary, it was almost the invariable prac­tice to grant bills for payment, at four or six months. These were not always men of capital, and the business which they followed was, from its very nature, a most precarious one ; so that, in proportion to their numbers, a greater pro­portion of such provincial dealers is known to have be­come bankrupt than of any other class of men. Hence the great risk and eventual losses to which (as is known to the present writer) the farmers in Wigtonshire were continu­ally exposed, and the general bankruptcy and distress that periodically ensued. In addition to the steamers which regularly ply between Wigtonshire and England, there are two steam-boats which sail weekly between Stranraer and Glasgow, so that the inhabitants of this remote county have