now the ready and frequent command of the best markets both in Scotland and England, either for buying or selling. We have already referred to the two government steamers that daily ply between Portpatrick and Donaghadee. But while steam-navigation has been productive of such impor­tant. advantages as we have described, it has been attended with other results, which, though favourable in a national point of view, are unfavourable to the district. The traffic and travelling that had formerly prevailed between Ireland and England *via* Portpatrick, through Galloway, have been in a great measure turned into a new channel, and this county has in consequence proportionally suffered. There is now very little travelling by this route ; and the steamers plying from almost every Irish port to Liverpool or Holy­head, engross almost the whole of the travelling of which Gal­loway formerly enjoyed the advantage. Nor is this all ; the importation of Irish horses and black cattle at Portpatrick has diminished to a similar extent. It appears from the New Statistical Account of Scotland, No. 22, p. 153, that whereas the number of such stock imported at Portpat­rick was 17,275 in 1790, and 20,000 in 1812; it was only 1080 in 1837. We may here mention, that the mail-coach was first introduced into Galloway in 1804, and that it has since continued to run daily between Dumfries and Port­patrick. There is not, and never was, an opposition coach in Wigtonshire.

This county is distinguished for the antiquity and num­ber of its religious houses. The oldest church built of stone in Scotland was situated at Whithorn, as mentioned in our account of that borough ; and in the 12th century a monastery of the Premonstratensian order was founded there by Fergus, Lord of Galloway. The same individual established another abbey of the same order called Saulseat *(Sedes Animarum)* near Stranraer. Roland, grandson of Fergus, founded, in 1190, the abbey of Glenluce, for monks of the Cistertian order ; and the abbey of Wigton was esta­blished in 1262, for Black Friars, by Lady Dervorgille of Gal­loway. (Murray’s Literary History of Galloway, pp. 12, 24, 26, 30, 2d edit. Edinb. 1822, 8vo.) There are also the re­mains of numerous subsidiary churches and chapels, built either for the use of some baron, or for the advantage of the remote inhabitants of a large parish. At the Reformation, Wigtonshire contained twenty-one parish churches, exclu­sive of the various subsidiary chapels referred to. Parishes have now been more judiciously arranged : in some cases three have been united into one ; and though three *new* pa­rishes have been erected, the total number is reduced to seventeen.

Several eminent characters were natives of this county, namely, St Ninian, who founded at Leucophibia, now Whithorn, the bishopric of Candida Casa, or Galloway, and who died in the fifth century ; Gavin Dunbar, tutor to James V. and afterwards archbishop of Glasgow, and lord chancellor of the kingdom ; Sir Patrick Vans, am­bassador to Denmark in the time of James Vl., and a lord of session ; Patrick Hannay the poet, son to Hannay of Sorbie ; Andrew Macdowall, Lord Bankton, author of Institutes of the Law of Scotland ; Dr Macgill of Ayr, and Dr Mackenzie of Portpatrick, two eminent divines, the latter author of Ocean, Stella, and other poems ; and Major Stewart Maxwell, author of the Battle of the Bridge. Some distinguished men, both laymen and clergymen, such as Archbishop Beaton, prior of Whithorn ; Bishop Cowper ; Lord Stair, the famous lawyer ; his son, the first earl of Stair; and grandson, Marshal Stair, were connected with the county, either by office or the possession of property.

The history of Wigtonshire, as part of Galloway, is not uninteresting. The aborigines, who were of Celtic origin, were the *Novantes* ; their chief towns *Leucophibia,* the pre­sent Whithorn, and *Perigonium,* on the *Rerigonius Sinus,* or Lochryan. The Mull of Galloway was called *Promon­*

*torium Novantium.* Galloway was invaded by the Romans. On the retirement (448) of that warlike people, it was successively overrun by the Anglo-Saxons of Northumbria, and by the Picts. But notwithstanding their falling suc­cessively under the dominion of these various people, the original Celtic inhabitants of Galloway were never entirely displaced ; their characteristic customs and manners con­tinued to predominate, and remains of such may be traced even at this day. They were distinguished for daring heroism and intrepidity, insomuch that they obtained the appellation of the wild Scots of Galloway, and obtained from the Scotish kings the privilege of forming the van in every battle at which they were present. The province was for upwards of a century an independent province, governed by its own princes or lords. Alan, who died in 1234, was the last of the ancient Lords of Galloway. John Balliol was grandson of Alan by his daughter Lady Der­vorgille, and thus possessed extensive estates both in Wig­tonshire and the stewartry of Kirkcudbright. The county of Wigton, with the title of earl, was conferred (1341) by David II. on Sir Malcolm Fleming ; but Fleming, amid the distraction of the times, was obliged, in 1372, to dis­pose of his estates (though he retained the title) to Archi­bald Douglas. From this date the Douglases reigned su­preme till their forfeiture in 1453. The county was then parcelled out among different families, many of which still remain ; and the Agnews of Lochnaw were created heritable sheriffs. This office remained in their family till the abolition of hereditary jurisdictions in 1747, with the exception of seventeen years previous to the revolu­tion, when Graham of Claverhouse and his brother Colonel David Graham were appointed joint-sheriffs. (Chalmers’s Caledonia, vol. i. *passim ;* Murray, *ut supra ;* New Stat. Acc. of Scotland, sec. Wigtonshire.) (c. I.)

WigtoN, a royal borough, and the capital of the county of the same name, is situated on a detached eminence about 200 feet above the level of the sea, at the confluence of the Blade­noch with Wigton Bay, and 105 miles south-south-west from Edinburgh. It consists mainly of one street about 600 yards in length, and, though narrow at the two extremities, so wide in the centre as to admit of a square containing a bowling- green and spacious walks. The houses are well built and substantial ; some of them are old, and the town altogether has a respectable and venerable appearance. It can boast, however, neither of trade nor manufactures. The harbour is within a quarter of a mile of the borough, and the dues are let for the small sum of L.26 per annum. There are fourteen vessels belonging to Wigton, the aggregate ton­nage being about 880. A steam-boat plies between this port and Whitehaven and Liverpool once a fortnight during the year. A branch bank has been established here since 1784. A packet plies daily between Wigton and Creetown, on the opposite side of the bay, a distance of about four miles. The population, which has long been nearly station­ary, was 1837 in 1831. In addition to the parish church, there is a dissenting chapel ; the only other public building is the town-hall, which also includes a jail. Wigton was created a royal borough in the time of David II. The number of councillors is eighteen. The municipal revenue is about L.350. The borough unites with Whithorn, Stranraer, and New Galloway in sending a representative to the House of Commons. The number of registered voters in Wigton in 1840-1 was 102.

The town can boast of great antiquity. The first church here was consecrated to St Machute, an obscure saint, who died in 554. It originally belonged to the priory of Whit­horn, but was afterwards a free rectory, the minister of it being a member of the chapter of the cathedral. The eastern gate of the present parish church is supposed to have formed part of St Machute’s church. In the church­yard there are monuments to the memory of several martyrs