

no robbery, murder, or suicide. In general they are subtle, and not easily deceived. They are manly, lively, and ingenious, very hospitable to strangers, and kind to the distressed. And though it be impossible to answer for the behaviour of all the common people, if left at liberty, the shipwrecked have always found protection and safety from the best families.

Tradition tells us of the remarkable stature, strength, and valour, of John the Great, the laird of Coll's predecessor. He, in several battles, conquered the Macneils of Barra, who pretended right to his lands, and established himself in the heritage, handed down to him from Macdonald of the Isles. The Macneils' burying-grounds are pointed out to day, in many places in Coll. Though Neil his brother was not near equal in strength, he could raise to his breast three stones, on top of each other, weighing at least 16 cwt. The stones remain still at the place.

A country man, who died last year about 5 feet 10 inches high, was employed by the laird of Coll as post to Glasgow or Edinburgh. His ordinary burden thence to Coll was 16 stone. Being once stopped at a toll near Dumbarton, he humorously asked whether he should pay for a burden, and upon being answered in the negative, carried his horse in his arms past the toll.

Indeed, though of an ordinary size, the people are remarkable for agility. They frequently entertain themselves by composing and singing songs, by repeating English and other tales, by dancing assemblies at different farms by turns. In this qualification they are remarkably neat. They are very cheerful and humorous, and there are not above two or three of either sex corpulent in either isle.

Poor

*Poor and Schools.*—They are very attentive to the poor in sickness and want. They rarely have cash, but liberally bestow grain, &c. The kirk session funds do not afford to give annually above 3 s. to each of 50 poor in Tiry, and 34 in Coll. There are also 5 s. or 6 s. allowed to help their indentments.

Whatever these Islanders may be behind their neighbours, any where on the mainland, is wholly owing to their great disadvantages as to education. I hope the period is now arrived when the cloud shall be dispelled. Till lately there were only 10 l. of a parochial salary for a school. Nine years ago, the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge, bestowed 10 l. for another school. These two schools generally had not ten scholars each. The people had not taste for education, and there were complaints against the teachers. The Society have, since the Reverend Dr Kemp's visit, added to these salaries a sum that enables the teachers to teach all gratis, and bestowed a number of books upon them. The Duke of Argyll is pleased to add so much for provisions which the parish should make. A salary is now granted, by the Society, for a school in Coll. I doubt not but they shall henceforth be all well attended, if the schoolmasters be well chosen. There are now often from 60 to 80 scholars in each. From whatever source funds may be obtained to accommodate this parish properly, Tiry requires 4 schools and Coll two.

Our congregations were untaught fingers, till the beginning of this year. An itinerant church music teacher, with a small salary, employed by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, was sent for. He teaches at so cheap a rate, that it is believed 800 or 900 in the parish will attend him this year. The good effects may be great. Singing is already