

already become agreeable, even to the old and illiterate. Men at 70 years of age attend.

Sewing schools, and especially spinning schools, are much required, as the women in general are very backward in these respects *.

Emigration.—Thirty-six men, women, and children, emigrated from Coll to America in 1792. None hitherto has emigrated from Tiry, though some talk of doing so. Their crops failed in 1790 and 1791, which, together with the low prices of kelp and cattle, has much reduced them. They must soon go somewhere for relief, unless manufactures be introduced to employ them.

Ferries.—There is a slated ferry between Tiry and Coll, often very dangerous, owing to a heavy swell from the Atlantic, to rapid currents and amazing breakers, over rocks and shifting sands. There is a slated ferry between Coll and Mull, 8 or 12 miles to the landing places. It is dangerous, on account of rapid currents at Loch-lothurn and the point of Calteach in Mull, and difficult of access to the harbours. There is no slated ferry between Tiry and Mull. The shortest distance from land to land is 21 miles; but above 30 between the usual landing places. The fare for a stout boat and hands here, is from 12s. to 15s. For travelling correspondence and markets, there is great need of a packet between these isles and Mull, especially if Tobermory, the nearest post office town, increases. It is to be hoped, when the

* A few of the common people speak English. They all speak Gaelic, which has a greater familiarity to the most ancient, than to the modern languages. And as it has little dependence upon other languages, it may not be so copious; but it has this great advantage, that the lowest peasant easily comprehends the highest title.

the Crinan canal will be finished, that there will be an increase of trade in all the western isles, and that then, instead of asking a salary, some may find it their interest to apply for leave to keep packets. The run from Tiry to Crinan, by the west side of Mull, will be straight, and hardly exceeding 90 miles. Such a packet would find her business daily increase, from coals, marble, fish, beef, potatoes, &c.

Church and Stipend.—There are three places of worship in the parish. The stipends hitherto have not exceeded 50 l. together with 16 l. 13 s. 4 d. in lieu of a manse, glebe, and communion elements. There is also a salary of 33 l. 6 s. 3 d. given to an Assistant in Coll. The whole tithes of the parish, by decrees 1726, 1729, and 1733, are 211 bolls victual, two-thirds bear, and one-third oat meal, together with 294 l. 5 s. 6 d. Scotch. The *ipso corpora* stipend, or tenth part, was taken up so late as 1752. There is now a process of augmentation commenced. At Sorbie in Tiry was the mother church of the deanry of the isles.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The only advantages we can be said to have, are, that the proprietors of these isles have always manifested an inclination that their tenants should live comfortably; that our lands, though impoverished, are very improvable; and that the fishing, if encouraged and attended to, may be very considerable. The circumstances of not getting salt without great plague and danger, and the markets turning out badly, when the first attempts were made, have discouraged the natives; whereas, in their situation, they require not only the countenance of the law, but even aid, at first, to purchase lines, harpoons, &c. It is necessary also to improve the harbours. For this purpose, many vessels that frequent the island would cheerfully pay a small anchorage, even without