



VIEW FROM CRAIGRONALD, NEAR GATEHOUSE-OF-FLEET.

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GATEHOUSE of FLEET; a Village in the Parish of Girthon in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. It is quite of modern erection, the first house having been built about 45 years ago, to serve as an Inn for the accommodation of travellers from Dumfries to Portpatrick. The situation is one of those seemingly intended by nature as the seat of a town; in a beautiful and fertile vale; the side of a fine river; so near the Solway Firth as to be easily rendered navigable to merchant vessels; and in a neighbourhood where every article of provisions could be had at a cheap rate. With these advantages, it is no wonder that Mr. Murray, the Proprietor, should have promoted the erection of a Village. It is built on a regular plan consisting of three Streets running parallel to the River Fleet, over which there is a handsome bridge, communicating with a Suburb on the western side of the river.

In a short time the Village rose to a considerable size, and is now more uniformly handsome in its buildings than any other town in Galloway. It was not long also before it acquired a good trade. Several Cotton Works are established and 10 or 12 vessels belong to the port.

Gatehouse was erected into a Borough of Barony in 1795, under the Superiority of Mr. Murray, with power to hold a weekly Market and several Fairs. It has a public library, established on a liberal plan, to which most of the inhabitants are contributors. It contains about 1200 inhabitants.

Girthon:—A Parish in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, it extends from N. to S. about 20 miles in length and from 3 to 5 in breadth. The surface and soil are remarkably varied; the northern half and all along the eastern boundary, being bleak, hilly and covered with heath and interspersed with several lakes, which empty their waters into the River Fleet.

Of these, Loch Fleet from whence the river takes its rise, Loch Scero, Loch Grunnock, and Loch Whynan are the chief. The River Fleet bounds the Parish on the W. possessing a salmon fishing of small value.

On its banks is the thriving Village of Gatehouse – near this Village is Cally, the beautiful residence of Mr. Murray, surrounded with fine gardens and extensive plantations. Population in 1801, 1,727.

Anwoth:—A Parish in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. Its extent is about $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length and $3\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth. The River Fleet runs on the borders of the Parish for 7 miles and the sea bounds it on the South for $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 miles. The sea coast is very rocky not affording a harbour to any shipping – The mouth of the Fleet however is navigable to vessels of 50 tons for 3 miles as far up as Gatehouse of Fleet, a Village in the Parish of Girthon. The surface has in general a hilly appearance; one of the hills Cairnharrah rising to the height of 1100 feet above the level of the sea – The soil is, from the nature of the surface, more fitted for plantations and pasture than tillage, but a few spots near the sea are arable and produce excellent crops.

The Fleet yields salmon and river trout; but the fishing is not so productive as formerly.

There is a bridge over the Fleet at Gatehouse and a small Village is erected on the Anwoth side of the river.

There are several relics of antiquity in the Parish of which the Tower of Rusco and Castle of Cardoness are the chief. They are both situated on the banks of the Fleet and are of very ancient erection.

On the top of a hill is one of those structures which have been denominated vitrified forts. The top of the hill is about 300 feet above the level of the sea and is strewn with fragments of stone (schistus) twisted, and bearing all the marks of fisure. Population in 1801, 637.

Gatehouse-of-Fleet



With Best Wishes for Christmas and New Year

from

Mrs. Murray Usher

Carstramon

Cally Estate Office