
Bitesize History - People

Population 1902



The present state of the population is as follows:
Village of Lochwinnoch, 2645: Howwood, 209: Glenhead: 53 in
the country, 1008—total, 4513. There are from fifty to sixty proprietors
of land of the yearly value of £50 and upwards.

The Renfrewshire dialect, contains far more words derived from the Gaelic than that of many other counties. The inhabitants of this parish spoke this kind of Scotch dialect exclusively till the public works introduced people from all parts of Scotland, and even from Ireland, which has modified it somewhat.

No game or amusement by which the inhabitants of this parish are so much distinguished as curling—which they have the best opportunities of enjoying on the fine sheet of ice on the loch of Castle Semple.

The young men and women employed in the cotton-mills can afford both to live and dress well, and their example tells upon the rest of the inhabitants. The numerous small proprietors too, are generally in better circumstances than ordinary farmers, and therefore the appearance of the congregation is much gayer than might be expected in a country parish.

Those who endure the heat, fatigue, and long confinement of the mills require a generous diet, and use it. They have generally butcher-meat at dinner, and sometimes at breakfast. This occasions an excellent market in the village. Many of the other inhabitants live in a plainer style, both in the town and country. The peasantry, I believe, generally eat porridge, and bread and cheese or milk to breakfast: broth and butcher-meat to dinner; and porridge again, or potatoes, or some other lighter food, to supper. Tea is not used in the country on ordinary occasions, except by some heads of families; but, with solitary exceptions, they live well.

In a manufacturing place like this, a great deal of ignorance and immorality may be expected. But the managers of the public works have always, much to their credit, been very careful about the character of the persons whom they employ; and the inhabitants enjoy all private as well as public means of instruction and improvement.

