

ably of late years ; manufactures have been introduced ; and the town may be pronounced in a thriving state. In 1756, the number of inhabitants was 1378. In 1792, 1827. The revenues of the town are small, arising from some landed property and the harbour dues.

Pathhead is named from its situation near a steep descent called the Path. It is divided into Pathhead Proper, or Dunikeer, situated on Dunikeer estate, and Sinclairton situated on Sinclair estate. Dunikeer is the old town : the greatest part of Sinclairton has been built within these 40 years. The chief employment in Pathhead was, for a long time, the making of nails. They sent great quantities to Edinburgh, to Glasgow, and to the north of Scotland. Two things favoured this trade, plenty of good coal near them, and the facility of getting old iron, by the ships trading from Dysart to Holland. But when other places came to have the same advantages, and nail factories were erected in different quarters, the profits of this trade were diminished. Manufactures have been introduced since that time. Many bred smiths have become weavers : the women too are beginning to handle the shuttle with success. Several manufacturers of substance now reside there, who have raised themselves by sober industry : and the town is in a fair way of flourishing, if the sudden rise of wages do not lead the young men into habits of dissipation. Symptoms of this have appeared of late : but the practice is as yet happily not general ; and we hope the inhabitants, in general, will continue to show that regard to the laws of the land, and that respect for the precepts of the gospel, without which they cannot hope to prosper. In 1756,
Pathhead,

morals of the people are not yet entirely effaced. New laws and greater vigilance on the part of government rendered the trade very hazardous ; and it is now seldom attempted. A fair trade has succeeded it, where the profits may be less, but the security is greater.

Pathhead, including Sinclairton, contained 1107 inhabitants : in 1792, 2089.

There are two villages, Galaton and Borland. In the former, nailing was the chief business; and is still carried on. But many weavers now reside there, who are employed by the manufacturers in Dyfart and Pathhead. In 1756, it contained 203 inhabitants; in 1792, 432. Borland was begun in 1756, for accommodating the colliers, and has been since increased. It contains 196 inhabitants.

In 1756, the numbers in the country were 241; in 1792, 409. This increase is not from more farmers residing than formerly, but from a number of weavers and some smiths having from time to time built houses along the high road, and in other places of the country.

TABLE of the Population of Dyfart Parish.

	Families.	Numbers in the Families.			Increased since 1756.	Houses.	Of these built since 1781.
		Male.	Female.	Total.			
Dyfart,	451	819	917	1736	358	224	10
Pathhead,	581	1062	1027	2089	982	320	100
Galaton,	137	227	205	432	227	70	12
Borland,	41	87	109	196	127	30	6
Country,	84	190	219	409	163	80	8
	1294	2,385	2477	4862	1862	724	126

The causes of this increase of population are, an Anti-burgher meeting-house being erected at Pathhead, which drew those of that persuasion near it; the advantage of being near coal, and the encouragement for labour about the coal-works; and what has contributed much more than either, the rapid increase of the manufactures.

Improvements by Proprietors.—In the Sinclair estate, there was originally an extensive moor, burdened with seal, divot, turf, &c. to the burgh of Dyfart. Servitudes of this kind are a great bar to improvements: and, in estates where coal is an object, the attention paid to it, too often prevents the cultivation of the surface. When the inhabitants of Dyfart came to give up the use of turf, either for burning, or other purposes, their privileges on the moor could not be of great importance. An agreement concerning them seemed evidently for the advantage of all concerned. This was accomplished at different periods. As a compensation to the town, above 100 acres were conveyed to them in property: and the family of St. Clair were at liberty to cultivate what remained. In the beginning of this century, a few years after the first transaction with the town, Lord St. Clair began to plant and enclose near the Orr. His example was followed by his successors: and what still retains the name of Dyfart moor, now consists of good enclosures, chiefly in pasture, surrounded with belts of plantation. Within these 50 years, between 300 and 400 acres have been planted and improved, no more remaining in its original state, than what is necessary for such of the tenants as use divot for a covering to their houses. The whole estate, a few acres excepted, is enclosed with stone and lime, or ditch and hedge. The last is preferred as a cheaper, warmer, and more beautiful fence. The estate is still capable of improvement.

The proprietor of W. Strathorr, while he is busied in carrying on an extensive manufacture in a neighbouring parish, dedicates his leisure hours to the improvement of his estate in this. The ground has been cleared of stones, which almost covered the surface: the fields have been enclosed, drained, and manured: belts have been planted to screen it; it assumes a very different appearance from what it did a few years