

... The Fleet, which bounds this parish to the W. is a beautiful winding river, and disembogues itself into Wigtown Bay. There is a salmon fishing belonging to it, now of little value; owing probably to the lime imported and to a soap house lately erected, on its banks.

Loch-Whinyeon abounding with trout....furnishes the cotton mills at Gatehouse with a copious stream of water; the course for conveying which from the lake, was cut a long way through the hill, at the expence of above 1200l.

**Proprietor, Mansion-House, etc.** - The whole parish is the property of James Murray.Esq. of Broughton, whose mansion-house, Cally, stands about an English mile below Gatehouse, at a small distance from the borders of the Fleet. The situation is extremely pleasant. The house is modern, and amongst the largest, and most princely, in the south of Scotland. The place is laid out on an extensive scale. About 1000 acres are in planting, gardens, orchards, and pleasure-grounds. The gardens were made at a great expence, and have equalled the proprietor's expectations. Besides the common fruits,they yield apricots, figs, grapes, and nectarines,equal to any in the hot-houses of this country. There is also a deer park,well stocked; the venison of which is reckoned equal, if not superior to any in Britain.

**Rent. Leases Servitudes Etc.** - The total valuation of the parish, in the cess-book, is 3281l. 3s. 6d. Scotch, or 2731l. 8s. 7d. Sterling. The present rent is about 3500l, including a moderate average rent for the lands not in lease. The leases are generally given for 19 years. The greater part of the moor lands are let by the lump: The low lands bring about 10s. per acre: The fields, near Gatehouse, from 11. to 21. The oppressive practice of thirlage prevails, and hurts their lends. The barony of Castramont is thirled to the mill of Kelleren, in the parish of Anwoth; and the barony of Cally to the mill of Bushby, in this parish. The proprietor has considerably lessened the multures of the mill on his own estate, to the no small encouragement of its agriculture. The cotton works established at Gatehouse, have much advanced the wages of farm servants.

**Population.**- As no regular register has been kept, the ancient state of the population cannot be ascertained precisely. From Dr.Webster's report, however, we are certain, that it has increased vastly within these 40 years, even excluding the great increase made to it, by the new village of gatehouse. The rest of the parish at present (1792) contains :-

Males 281  
Females 299    Total 580

The return in 1755 was 367  
Increase 213  
When to this is added the number of souls in Gatehouse 1150  
The total increase is 1363

**Employment**  
Weavers 9  
Coopers 1  
Millers 1  
Dyer and apprentices 4  
Joiner and ditto 4  
Farmers about 200

**Church and Poor.** The living, everything included, is about 120l yearly. The manse was built a considerable time ago, and is in a very uncomfortable state. The church is small, and, from its situation, extremely inconvenient for the bulk of the inhabitants. The weekly collections fines for irregularities, etc., amount to about 25l a year. Paupers, to the number of 10, are assisted therewith.

**General Character.** Six McMillanites excepted, the tenants and cottagers are all Presbyterians. Much praise is due to their religious and moral conduct. A circulation of good offices takes place amongst them. They are candid, sober, and industrious: They affect no parade of sanctity: They have nothing of an indiscreet or intolerant zeal: Firm to the religion of their country, "they meddle not with those that are given to change".

**Gatehouse of Fleet.**

**Situation and Origin** - This neat and beautifully situated village stands to the S.W. of the parish on the banks of the Fleet. Its increase has been rapid. Though the first house built was an inn, not above 30 years ago, t now

consists upwards of 160 houses, and 1150 inhabitants. The cotton works which have swelled it to its present size and population, promise soon to give it a rank among the towns distinguished for industry and commerce.

**Houses, Rents, etc.** - The village is held in feu from Mr. Murray. The ground stands, of 30 feet in front, 150 back, for a kitchen garden, paid, till within these few years, only 1s. annual feu-duty each. Since that period, they pay at the rate of 3d. per foot in front, with 150 back. The houses are built of brick, or of whin-stone, and are mostly 2 stories high. Owing to the vast influx of inhabitants, they bring a great rent. A house of 3 stories, with but indifferent convenience and accommodation, will let so high as 30l. yearly. The village is divided into 3 streets which rise parallel from the river. It is well watered and allowed to be by far the pleasantest in Galloway. Though its industry has kept it as yet quiet, a burgh police is certainly necessary for the establishing and perpetuating good order. It is a matter of pleasure to the inhabitants, that the superior has signified, that his attention will soon be turned to this important object. It deserves remark that there is not a lamp-post in any of its streets. This, with many other disadvantages would be attended to, and remedied, by several respectable inhabitants if they were invested with any external authority.

**Inn Road, etc.** - Besides a good inn, there are about 15 houses in which spiritous liquors are sold. The road betwixt Dumfries and Portpatrick runs through this village and makes its principal inn well frequented. Two mail coaches arrive here, at 7 o'clock every morning, one from Carlisle, the other from Portpatrick.

**Bank, Commerce, Shipping, etc.** - A branch of the Paisley Union Bank was lately established here, and transacts business to a considerable amount. The right of a weekly market, which the village charter gives, has not yet been used. The best frequented markets are, for eight successive Fridays, after the first Friday of winter; and at some of these there is a considerable show of black cattle. (Butcher meat is in general to be got here. Beef, mutton, veal and pork, sell from W. to 4½d. the pound; butter at 6d. the pound; Scotch cheese, at 3d. the pound: The pound to all is 16oz.. Meal is from 1s.7d. to 2s. the stone.) Several vessels, of 80 tons and under, belong to this port. They trade chiefly to the west of Scotland, and to the north of England. One of them trades constantly to London. The commodities imported are, ale, porter, wine, grocery goods, raw hides, tallow, timber, lime, cotton wool. coals, etc.. Cotton manufactures, tanned leather, soap, grain, potatoes, etc. are exported.

**Manufactures.** - Many branches of commerce thrive in Gatehouse. It has a tannery and soapery, both carried on to a good extent. But its industry is principally directed to the manufacturing of cotton wool. Besides about 50 mules and jennies, managed by private hands, it has 4 mills in constant employment; and will probably have 2 more in short time. Of those built, the 2 largest are twist mills; the 2 others are mule mills. The mule mills are 3 stories high, 70 feet by 20; have about 130 mules each, which give employment to upwards of 100 labourers. The largest of the twist mills is 4 stories high, 120 feet by 30; and employs about 300 labourers. The other twist mill is 3 stories high, 84 feet by 32; and is not yet completely set agoing. There is also a cotton factory, in which are wove muslins, and other cottons of neat patterns and good fabric. (The cotton workers are paid, some by the day, others by the pound, others by the piece. A picker will earn 1s. per day; a carder 1s. 2d.; a spinner 2s.6d.. One male house, or farm servant has from 7l. to 9l. a year; a female ditto from 3l. to 4l.. Masons and carpenters have from 1s.6d. to 2s. per day without meat; tailors 8d. per day, with meat. Shoemakers, weavers, etc. are paid according to the quantity and quality of their work.

**Fuel.** - Coals are the general fuel here. They are imported from Whitehaven, Newcastle etc. and run from 30s. to 40s. the ton. Notwithstanding the extravagant price of this necessary article, the inhabitants are often in absolute want. This tends to hurt the manufacturers, as it causes many of the labourers to remove; and will, when known, prevent strangers from settling. Employers would therefore consult their own interest, would they adopt some method of supplying their workmen constantly, and upon as moderate terms as possible. The duty upon coals was a frequent, and just cause of complaint, which, since the commencement of this account, has been happily removed.

**School.** - There is one school here, very well endowed. It is a subject of regret, however, that so large a parish has only one. This is a great disadvantage to the farmers and cottagers children who cannot travel as far as Gatehouse. What deserves commendation is, that the schoolmaster has, though with little encouragement opened a Sunday school, for

the instruction of such children as are obliged, from the straightened circumstances of their parents, to attend the cotton mills during the rest of the week.

**Population and Employments** At Whitsunday 1792 the number and professions of the inhabitants of the village stood as follows:

Males	549	Carriers	2
Females	601	Soap-boilers	2
Souls	1150	Chaise drivers	3
		Slaters	2
Minister	1	Founders	2
Surgeons	2	Saddler	1
Schoolmaster	1	Glover	1
Writers	4	Butchers	4
Excisemen	3	Barber	1
Shopkeepers	13	Stocking weavers	2
Innkeepers & whisky sellers	13	Masons	24
Bakers	4	Turners	5
		Joiners	24
Smiths	17		
Bricklayers	19		
Tanners	4		
Shoemakers	17		
Tailors	15		
Weavers	10		
Ditto, female	1		
Ditto, employed in cotton manufactory	21		
People employed in the cotton works in general as above		500	

**Character and Manners.**- As the mixture, of which the population of Gatehouse in composed has, as yet, assumed no uniform or regular appearance, general lineaments cannot be given of its character and manners. This, however may be safely asserted of the inhabitants, that they are attentive, and industrious. The greater part of them are Presbyterians; And even those of them which belong to the Church of England, whose moral conduct is sober and orderly (having no minister of their own communion), regularly attend the established place of worship; receive the sacraments as dispensed by the Church of Scotland; walk by its rules, and submit peaceable to its discipline.