

Parish of Tyree and Coll

an extract from

*General View of the Agriculture of the County of Argyle
With Observations on the Means of its Improvement.*

*Drawn up for the Consideration of the Board of Agriculture
and Internal Improvement.*

by

John Smith, D.D.
one of the Ministers of Campbelton.

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is good free-stone in the parish, and several appearances of coal. There are six proprietors, of whom three reside. The number of paupers 60; the yearly distribution to them is from 5*l.* to 6*l.* In this parish lies Icolmkill (the property of the Duke of ARGYLE), celebrated for its monastery, founded by St. COLUMBA; which was for ages the seat of learning and sanctity. Inch-Kenneth, celebrated by the classical pen of Dr. JOHNSON, in his beautiful Latin Ode to it, lies also in this parish. Mull exports yearly about 1500 black cattle, exclusive of 500 which come first from Tyree and Coll.

Tyree and Coll.—Tyree belongs to the Duke of ARGYLE; Coll partly to the Duke of ARGYLE, and partly to Mr. McLEAN of Coll. Both have been measured, and found to contain about 25,000 acres. Tyree is 11 miles in length, and above two in breadth; Coll, 14 in length, and near two in breadth. The valued rent of Tyree is 193*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*; of Coll, 87*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*; the real rent of both about 2000*l.* In Tyree there are 2446 souls, 1800 black cattle (of which 260 are yearly exported, and 70 killed at home), 600 sheep, 1400 horses (of a very small breed), 160 ploughs, and 270 farmers. In Coll there are 1041 souls, 1300 black cattle (of which 250 are exported, and 30 killed at home), 500 sheep, and 500 horses, 34 ploughs, and 97 farmers. In 1755, the number of souls in Tyree was 1509, and in Coll 1193. The paupers in Tyree are 50, in Coll 34; the annual distribution to each is about 3*s.* Tyree makes 145 tons of kelp, Coll 55. Tyree abounds in fine marble, and has excellent fishing banks, and a great deal of dry warm sandy soil, the fittest, perhaps, in the kingdom for the cultivation of tobacco, if that were allowed. The general system of farming is extremely bad, and the returns are consequently

quently very poor. Two men and two horses cut the sward with what is called the *ristle*, and then two men and five horses, with a plough, turn the fur. In a soil so generally dry and free, all this might be done by one man and two tolerable horses, by which the labour of two men and five horses might be saved for every plough. The oats are mostly of the small black kind; the returns are, from oats about two and a half, from bear about four, and from potatoes in lazy-beds five; in drills, sometimes 16 or more. Before the valuation, Tyree was divided into *mail lands*, of which it contained 1006; Coll into merk lands, of which there were 29.

Lismore—is about eight miles long and two broad; the soil is very fertile, lying mostly on lime-stone, and abounding in marl. It contains 61 merk lands. The rents are for the most part paid in kind, and personal services exacted by some of the landlords.

Jura and Colonsay.—This, in the county-books, is called the parish of Killearnadil and Kilchattan. The Island of Jura is computed to be 24 miles long, and from five to six broad. It consists of 27 farms, of which 12 are in pasturage, and 15 in pasturage and tillage. It contains 204 families, and 929 souls. In the adjacent islands of Scarba, Lunga, and Belnahua, are 48 families, and 211 souls; most of them employed in the slate quarries of Belnahua. These, with Jura, make the parish of Killearnadil, of which the valued rent is 77*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* There are some red deer in the hills of Jura; and its sheep, of which many are of the old white-faced breed, have remarkably fine wool. In Colonsa and Oronosa (or parish of Kilchattan), there are 134 families, and 718 souls. The valued rent is 209*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*; the extent about 8000 acres, of which 3000 are arable.