

longest in force, after the authority of regular law had been fully established in the rest of Scotland, coincides very nearly with that in which the Gaelic or Erse language is in common use. Taking this, therefore, as the most definite criterion that can be referred to, a selection has been made of those parishes, where that language is so prevalent, that the clergy are required to perform divine-service in it. The shires of Sutherland, Ross, Cromarty, Inverness, and Argyll, with the islands of Bute and Arran, though including some tracts of champain country, must, in this view of the subject, be considered as entirely Highland. To these counties are to be added the parishes of Reay, Thurso, Halkirk, and Latheron in Caithness, those of Nairn, Ardelach, and Calder in Nairn-shire, Duthel in Elgin-shire, Kirkmichael in Banffshire, Luss and Arrochar in Dumbarton-shire, and those of Balquhidder, Blair and Strowan, Callander, Comrie, Dull, Fortingall, Kenmore, Killin, Kirkmichael, Logierait, Mouline, and Weem in Perth-shire. Besides these, there are some parishes, where a part of the inhabitants, though not the majority, use the Gaelic language; but, as there is no possibility of ascertaining what proportion, such parishes are not included. The amount of the Highland population, thus omitted, cannot perhaps exceed 4 or 5000, and being left out of view equally in all the different statements which are here subjoined, cannot affect the accuracy of the comparison they afford between different periods of time.

From the annexed Table it will be seen, that the whole population of the Highlands, amounted in 1755 to 255,845, and in 1801 to 296,844,—a result which is very remarkable. To those who have studied the principles of political economy, it may appear a paradox, that in spite of the operation of so powerful a cause of depopulation, as that