

steady, and prudent people; religious and moral in their habits, and strongly attached to their native country.

16. *Language*.—The Highlanders generally speak the Gaelic, a language which is nearly the same as the ancient Irish and Welch; but the majority of them understand English. In the Lowlands, English is universally understood and spoken; but a dialect is used, particularly by the lower ranks, which differs from it in a considerable degree.*

17. *Curiosities*.—Some of the chief natural curiosities are, the basaltic columns and the cave of Fingal, in the island of Staffa; the Fall of Fyers, near Loch Ness; and the Falls of Clyde, near Lanark.† There are many remains of antiquity, such as those of the great Roman wall, built by Antoninus Pius, between the Friths of Clyde and Forth; Roman and Danish camps; and Roman ways.

18. *Inland Navigation*.—The principal canals are the Caledonian Canal, extending from Inverness to Fort William; and the Great Canal, joining the Friths of Forth and Clyde.‡

19. *Representation in Parliament*.—By the act of Union, the peers of Scotland elect, at the commencement of each parliament, 16 of their own number to represent them in the house of lords. In the house of commons, there are 45 members for Scotland; 30 of whom represent the counties, and 15 the royal burghs.§

* 7. Specimens of this dialect will be found in the writings of Ramsay and Burns, and in Sir Walter Scott's Novels.

† 8. The columns in Staffa resemble those of the Giant's Causeway in Ireland. The Cave of Fingal is one of the most remarkable in the world, and is of great magnitude; being 227 feet long, from 20 to more than 50 feet broad, and from 66 to nearly 100 feet high. Staffa lies about 15 miles west of Mull. At the Fall of Fyers, the water descends at a single bound, through the height of more than 200 feet.

‡ 9. The distance from Fort William to Inverness is 69 miles; and the Caledonian Canal is carried through Loch Lochy, Loch Oich, and Loch Ness, which occupy 37 miles, and leave only 22 miles which required to be cut. The canal will admit a thirty-two gun frigate; its depth being 20 feet, and its width at top 100 feet, and at bottom 50 feet. The rise on the eastern side is 94 feet, and on the western 90 feet. It has for some time been open for vessels, though it is not yet finished. The work has been carried on by parliamentary grants; and the entire cost will exceed a million sterling.

The Great Canal was commenced in 1768, under the inspection of Mr. Smeaton, and finished in 1790. It cost upwards of £200,000, the greater part of which was raised by subscription. Its general depth is 8 feet, and its general width at the surface 56 feet. It has been productive of great advantage to the part of Scotland through which it passes.

Besides these canals, there are the Union Canal, extending from the Great Canal to Edinburgh; the Monkland Canal, which joins the Great Canal near Glasgow; the Ardsrossan Canal, which is partly made, and is to extend from Ardsrossan to Glasgow; and the Crinan Canal, which is 9 miles in length, and crosses the peninsula of Cantire.

§ 10. The right of voting for members of parliament is confined to a very small number of the people; the thirty county members being elected by 2688 individuals, and the fifteen for the burghs by 1267. The number of the royal burghs is 66, and there is consequently only one member elected for several of them; except in the case of Edinburgh, which elects one for itself. The peers of Scotland are 80 in number.