

ON

(SUTHERLANDSHIRE.)

CONTENTS.

	Page
GENERAL DESCRIPTION	193
CHARTER	193
PROPERTY AND REVENUE	193
TAXATION	193
JURISDICTION	193
PATRONAGE	193
EXCLUSIVE PRIVILEGE	194
SETT OF BURGH	194
POLICE	194
LIST OF DOCUMENTS ACCOMPANYING THIS REPORT.	194

D O R N O C H.

THE Royal Burgh of Dornoch is the county town of Sutherland, but it is extremely insignificant in every particular; and there is no reason for thinking that it can ever become of more importance. It is literally a village, consisting of a church, a gaol, and a very few houses, without trade or manufactures of any kind. Although situate within a short distance of the Firth of Dornoch, no harbour can be formed, by reason of the shallowness of that estuary. It is within a mile of the great north road, but there appears to be no inducement for so altering the line as to make that road pass through the town.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

The only Charter produced was granted by Charles II., and is dated the 14th July, 1628. By it Dornoch was erected into a royal burgh, with the ordinary privileges, but with a reservation in favour of the Earl of Sutherland, of his hereditary right of the lands of Dornoch, and all buildings erected, or to be erected, within the burgh, with all the rights and casualties specified in his titles, but with the following reservation: "Reservato tamen dilecto nostro consanguineo, Joanni Sutherlandiæ Comiti, suis hæredibus masculis et successoribus, suo hereditario jure dictarum terrarum de Dornoch, et omnium edificiorum et lie outsettis infra dictum Burgum edificat et edificand. Tenend. de prefato Comite, suis hæredibus masculis et successoribus, simili modo tentiones quo nunc eadem tenentur et habentur, vel prout dicto Comiti et suis prescriptis eadem incolis ejusd. posthac disponere placebit una cum annuis devociis in suis infeofamentis specificatis et specificandis, et cum introitibus tenentium per decessum resignationis, vel alio modo quocunq. adq. et omnes alias casualitates que hereditariam, proprietatem, vel superioritatem prefatarum terrarum dicti Burgi, et omnium edificiorum et tenementorum; cum lie mossis earundem, consequi poterint, prefatus Comes suiq. prescripti plenum jus habebunt non obstante erectione dicti Burgi Baronie."

CHARTER.

No. 5.

ARTICLE I.

The Property of the burgh consists of the Links in the neighbourhood, which, for the year 1832-3, were let by public roup, for the sum of £2 1s.

PROPERTY AND REVENUE.

A right to a salmon fishing appears also to have been claimed, but never to have been rendered effectual, and it has not been included among the sources of Revenue.

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4.

The rest of the annual income is derived from custom and market dues, which, for the year 1832-3, were let for £1 14s., being a diminution of £1 16s. from the rent of the year preceding, for which the rent was £3 10s.

The accounts are regularly made up, audited, and docketed, and deposited in terms of the statute, and afterwards lodged in Exchequer.

No Debts are owing by this burgh.

ARTICLE II.

No Taxes or Assessment are imposed.

TAXATION.

ARTICLE III.

A claim is made for a very extensive and apparently undefined royalty, greatly exceeding the parliamentary boundaries; but the territory over which Jurisdiction has been exercised is understood to be limited to what may be called the burgh proper.

JURISDICTION. Extent.

While the magistrates deem that they have the ordinary powers, the only causes that come before them are, *first*, applications under the Act of Grace; *secondly*, on sick bills; and, *thirdly*, removings. For the years from 1829 to 1833 there have been 13 of the first, one of the second, and eight of the third class. No criminal jurisdiction has been exercised for several years, and previously the cases were of a petty description, and of rare occurrence.

Nature.

ARTICLE IV.

This burgh has the usual complement of officers, elected by the magistrates and council, some during pleasure, others annually, and one,—the town-clerk,—for life. The magistrates alone appoint the town-officers and gaolers, and the other office-bearers are appointed by the whole council. All serve in person. The salaries are, town-clerk, £5 3s. 4d.; head gaoler, £20; and under gaoler, £15. These salaries are paid out of the common good, as far as it will go; but, it being inadequate, the difference has for many years been made up by the provost of the burgh,—the present Duke of Sutherland.

PATRONAGE.

The burgh has no church or school Patronage.

ARTICLE V.

There being no Privilege attached to burgh-ship, there are no burgesses. Any person who thinks proper sets up a shop, and trades without challenge.

EXCLUSIVE PRIVILEGE.

In his declaration the town-clerk stated that, in so far as he knew, the inhabitants do not hold their property in burgh, but of the family of Sutherland. But in a letter subse-

No. 2. p. 3, 4.

M. C. S.

September 27, 1833.

DORNOCH.

No. 6.

quently, addressed to the Commissioners, he states that he had made particular inquiry regarding the holdings, and requests that his declaration on that subject may be corrected, by inserting in it the following paragraph: "That the family of Sutherland have, and especially of late have claimed, as interjected superiors, a right to certain feus within what is termed the royalty of the burgh of Dornoch, but the declarant has no access to know on what written title this right is founded; and it consists with his knowledge that there are various tenements within the burgh who still hold by written titles, in burgage of and under the magistrates as superiors, and infest by hasp and staple."

ARTICLE VI.

Sett of Burgh.

No change has taken place on the Sett since the year 1819. The council consists of a provost, four bailies, a dean of guild, a treasurer, and twelve councillors.

The number of persons resident within the royalty, whose rents in property or tenantry amount to £10 a-year and upwards, are about 20. The number of such persons whose rents amount to £5 a-year or upwards, but do not amount to £10, are about 40. These comparatively large numbers are to be accounted for by reason of the alleged extent of the royalty. There are none resident beyond the proper bounds of the burgh, but within the parliamentary boundaries, whose rents amount to £10 or £5.

ARTICLE VII.

POLICE.

There is nothing peculiar regarding the Police of this burgh.

Prison.

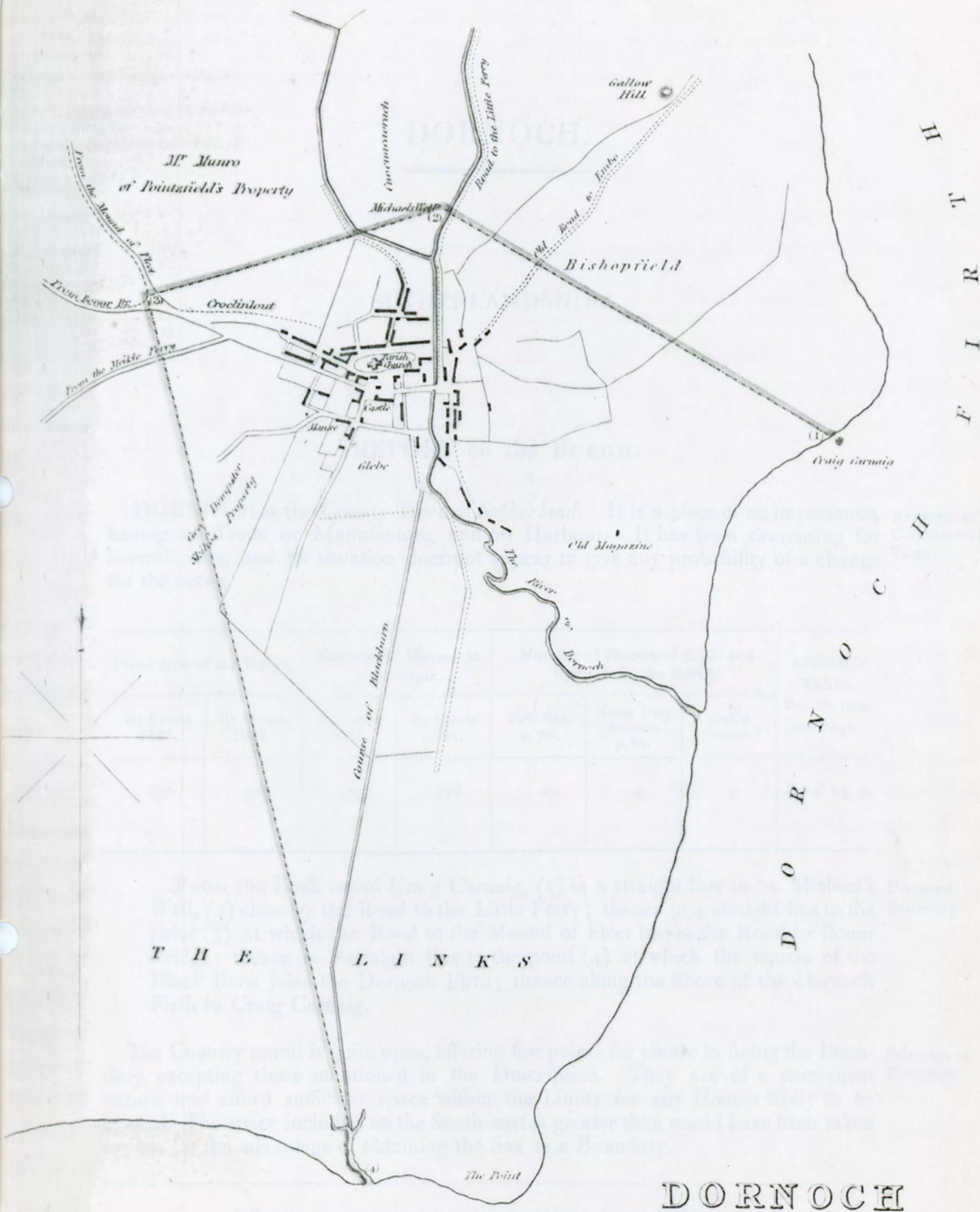
The Prison of Dornoch consists of two apartments, forming the two upper stories of an old tower, formerly a part of the palace of the bishops of Caithness, and now included under the entailed estate of the family of Sutherland. Each of these apartments is subdivided into three portions by wooden partitions. There is no room for classification, nor for separate accommodation for the sick; and there are no airing grounds. The prison cannot be deemed sufficient, either as to size, accommodation, or security.

DOCUMENTS.

The following Documents accompany this Report:

1. Answers to Heads of Inquiry issued by the Commissioners.
2. Declaration of Robert S. Taylor, Town Clerk.
3. Certified Copy Account of the Revenue of the Burgh.
4. Certified Copy Minute of the Magistrates of Dornoch, relative to Letting of Customs.
5. Copy Charter in favour of the Burgh of Dornoch, 1628.
6. Letter Town Clerk of Dornoch to Burgh Commissioners, 27th Sept., 1833.
7. Return of Number of £10 Houses within the Royalty and Parliamentary Boundaries.

ROBERT HUNTER.
C. INNES.



Scale of 6 Inches to 1 Mile

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Furlongs or Half a Mile

Scale of Yards

0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 Yards

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DORNOCH.SUTHERLANDSHIRE.

REPORT on the BURGH.

DORNOCH is the County Town of *Sutherland*. It is a place of no importance, having no Trade or Manufacture, and no Harbour. It has been decreasing for several years, and its situation does not appear to give any probability of a change for the better. Appearance and Condition of the Town.

Population of the Burgh.		Number of Houses in the Burgh.		Number of Houses of £.10. and upwards in the Burgh.			ASSESSED TAXES
By Census 1821.	By Census 1831.	By Census 1821.	By Census 1831.	Parl. Ret. p. 32.	House Duty Returns. p. 82.	Special Report.*	Payable from the Burgh.
630	504	137	116	—	4	9	£. 24. 15. 3.

FROM the Rock called Craig Carnaig, (1) in a straight line to St. Michael's Well, (2) close by the Road to the Little Ferry; thence in a straight line to the point (3) at which the Road to the Mound of Fleet leaves the Road to Bonar Bridge; thence in a straight line to the point (4) at which the course of the Black Burn joins the Dornoch Firth; thence along the Shore of the Dornoch Firth to Craig Carnaig. Proposed Boundary.

The Country round is quite open, offering few points for choice in fixing the Boundary, excepting those mentioned in the Description. They are of a permanent nature, and afford sufficient space within the Limits for any Houses likely to be erected. The space included on the South-east is greater than would have been taken in, but for the advantage of obtaining the Sea as a Boundary. Selection of Boundary.

* Special Report obtained from George Murray, Surveyor of Taxes.