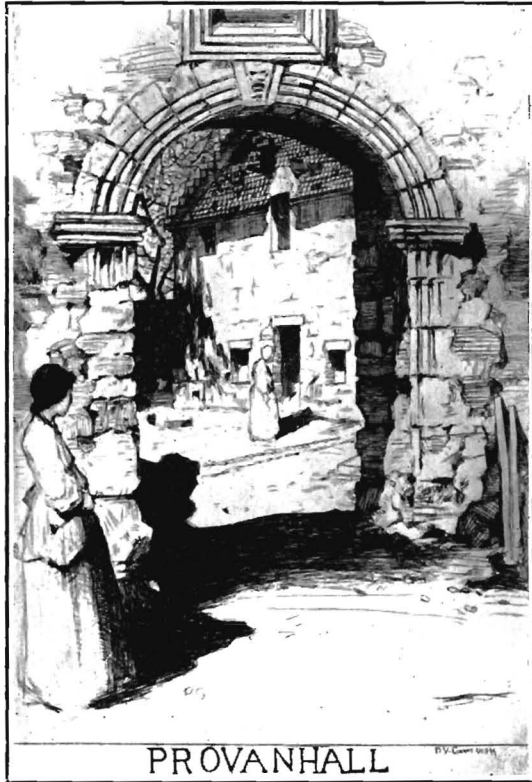


RUCHAZIE

A DISTRICT AND A SCHOOL
IN THE PROVAN



BY
J. F. ^{John}MILLER, M.A., F.S.A. Scot.
MILLERSTON

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TO THE MEMORY
OF THE
PAROCHIAL SCHOOLMASTERS OF SCOTLAND
WHOSE WORK HAS BECOME
PART OF THE NATIONAL TRADITION
AND HERITAGE

PREFACE

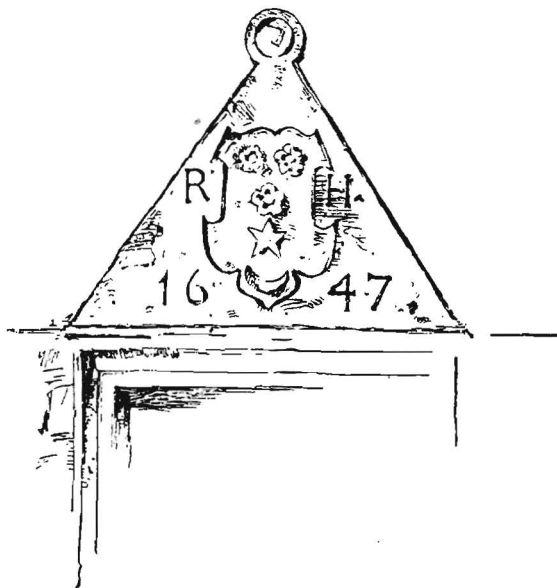
IN preparing the following chapters the author has had access to the Registers of the Kirk-Sessions and Heritors of the Barony and Shettleston Parishes. They form part of those records which contain much of value for the true history of the city and district, and which unfortunately have not yet become accessible in print. The writer desires cordially to thank those who have the custody of these documents for the ready way they permitted him to peruse them. The Clerk of the School Board of Shettleston likewise allowed him the courtesy of records that were relevant. J. G. Williamson, Esq., the proprietor of Ruchazie, gave him access to the title deeds. Special thanks are due to Mr. D. Y. Cameron, R.A., for permission to reproduce his etching of Provanhall. He is also indebted to his friend, Rev. W. J. Couper, M.A., for much kindly help and advice. His assistant, Rev. J. E. M'Intosh, M.A., read the proofs and made useful suggestions.

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Carving over Provanhall Gateway.

RUCHAZIE A DISTRICT & A SCHOOL IN THE PROVAN

I. THE PROVAN

THE town and lands of Ruchazie formed part of the estate of the Provan, which belonged to Sir Robert Hamilton of Silvertonhill. The old manor house, with crow-stepped gables, vaulted basement and huge fire-place, still stands at Provanhall; and the initials, R. H., with the Hamilton coat of arms and the date 1647, are cut on a carved stone above the arched gateway leading into the court. The lands were acquired by the town of Glasgow in 1667.

In 1729 the lands were laid out in the farms into which they are at present divided and were feued to various tenants. Finally, in 1767, exactly one hundred years after buying the estate, the town roused off the feu duties, and practically ended its connection as landowner of the Provan. Glasgow, however, retained the mill of Provan and a few adjacent acres, which it still possesses,

as well as the water rights of Hogganfield and Frankfield Lochs, in order to secure water to drive the mills lower down the Molendinar Burn. The town still keeps a titular connection with the estate, and annually appoints a Bailie of Provan. In 1512, there was an official of this name, for a large estate needs a factor. When the town purchased the lands, William Anderson was appointed Bailie and collector of rents, and was recommended to hold courts "with all convenience." The office is now entirely honorary, and is generally given to one who has rendered important service to the city, but who no longer occupies a seat in the Council. The present custom is accordingly a relic of a duty which has long since passed from the concern of the city.

Provan is an old place-name for the district, but a much older one is Barlanark, which represents an early property belonging to the church of Glasgow. In 1116, David I., while he was still only Prince and Earl of Cumbria, appointed an enquiry to be made to ascertain the early possessions of the church. This document is called "The Inquest of David," and is the most ancient of the charters relating to the city and diocese of Glasgow. In it there is a list of thirty-one lands and properties which by the

help and counsel of the old and wise men of all Cumbria are certified as the early possessions of the church of St. Kentigern. The first place mentioned is Cardowan, which represents an estate situated in the Provan, about one mile east of Ruchazie. The name Barlanark also appears in the list. Later it was formed into a prebend of the Cathedral, that is, a parish or district the temporalities of which supplied the income of a canon. In 1322, King Robert the Bruce granted to John Wychard, "Canon of the Prebend of Barlanark," and his successors a right to hold the land "in free warren" for ever, and forbade any one from cutting wood, or from hunting, hawking or fishing there without a license from John or his successors. The Prebendary of Barlanark was in the peculiar position of having no parochial charge in town or country, and his income was derived not from teinds, but from the rents or produce of the lands. The duties of the office, which was generally held as an honorary appointment with a seat in the chapter of the Cathedral, were nominal. Barlanark as a place-name gradually fell into disuse, and the district became known as the Prebend, Proband, or Provan, after the function it performed for the canon. The Latin word, *prebenda*, is equivalent to the English word

provender, and assumes in the vernacular the form of the name under which the district is known, Provand or Provan.

Before the Reformation several notable ecclesiastics held the prebend. About 1440, William Turnbull was appointed to it, and was sometimes designated in charters as "dominus prebende," that is, the lord of the Prebend. He was raised to the bishopric of Glasgow in 1447, and three years later he procured a bull from Pope Nicholas V. founding the University, which therefore remains as a monument of the services he rendered to the church and community. In 1487 a very interesting reference is made to Barlanark. Robert Blaccader held the prebend before he became bishop. When he attained episcopal rank, he carried out several improvements on the Cathedral. It is to him that we owe the beautiful rood-screen built between the choir and the nave. He was the last of the old hierarchy who had a scheme for enlarging the church, and in pursuance of his plans founded what is known as "Blaccader's Aisle." He wished to incorporate the revenues of the prebend with the bishop's benefice, and for that purpose had secured bulls from Rome, but a dispute arose between the bishop and the dean and chapter regarding the proposed arrangement. The Pope sent Antony,

Bishop of Tibur, all the way from the Tiber to the banks of the Molendinar to mediate in his name between the parties. In the end Blaccader had to drop his project, and the prebend remained "as in the days of Andrew (Muirhead) of good memory." It is quite possible that the Bishop of Glasgow required larger revenues to carry on his addition to the Cathedral, and the quarrel ending as it did in his defeat, explains why only the crypt was founded and the aisle never carried to completion.

About fifty years before the Reformation, the prebend was in the possession of a family named Baillie, one of whom, Canon William Baillie, held the appointment in 1560. Besides occupying this office, he was a senator of the College of Justice, becoming afterwards Lord President of the Court with the title of Lord Provand. The old order of things had changed and the prebend could no longer be held by a church title. That being so, Why, he asked, should not his family own the land in their own right? According to both ecclesiastical and civil law churchmen were entitled to feu their lands, provided that the benefice was not diminished in rental. Thus Lord Provand saw his duty clearly. He had two sons to provide for. By a charter dated 10th April 1562—two years after the Reformation—

“ Mr. William Baillie, Canon of the Metropolitan church of Glasgow and prebendary of the prebend of Barlanark, otherwise called Provand ” conveyed the lands by feu charter to “ Thomas Baillie of Ravenscraig.” The charter alludes to the conditions under which church lands could be feued, and states that for their improvement, and for the augmentation of the yearly revenue and advantage of the prebend, the grantor had resolved to feu the lands, a course which was approved of by the dean and chapter after full discussion and consideration. Thomas, the feuar, became liable for a yearly feu duty equal to the old rental and with three merks in augmentation. The old rental amounted to £95 7s. Scots, with 32 bolls horse corn and eight dozen hens, or for every boll 5s. money and for every hen six pennies. The gross feu duty may be stated at £108 Scots—a sum equal to £9 sterling. This sum became payable to the Crown after the annexation of temporalities in 1587. The title to the estate was strengthened by several royal confirmations, and to this day those who hold the superiorities to the lands in the Provan continue to pay the feu duty to the Crown. The prebendary contained the following well-known estates :—Easter and Wester Queenslie, Gartcraig, Barlinnie, Blochairn, Germiston, Balgray, Hogganfield, Ballornock,

Milton, Riddrie, Ruchazie, Craigend, Garthamloch, Cardowan, Gartsheugh, with the mills, the mains and the meadows of Provan, and the wood called Gartwood. The lands extend to perhaps 5,000 acres, and stretch from Springburn to the Bishop's Loch, and from Shettleston to the boundary of Cadder parish. It was from a successor of the original feuar that the town of Glasgow purchased the Provan.

After the Reformation, the Provan was included for ecclesiastical purposes in the Barony parish, which was formed in 1596. The landward part to the west now forms part of the parishes of Maryhill and Springburn, while that portion to the east was disjoined from the original parish in 1847, and now forms part of the parish of Shettleston.

The Provan has had many names of high standing officially connected with it. To this honourable company, the schoolmaster at Ruchazie came in time to be added.

water or loch, which seems even to-day a natural description of the spot. The name for the low hill running immediately to the north of the village is Garthliscanhill, a name which long ago fell into disuse. "Garth" means a clearance or encampment. The numerous place-names in the Provan and to the east of the Cathedral probably indicate early settlements.

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries Ruchazie appears to have been a centre of considerable importance, and traces of its ancient size still remain. It no doubt was the principal town in the Provan. In a description of the lands of Queenslie lying about a mile to the south, these are stated to be "the croft lands of Ruchazie." The inhabitants of the township accordingly had their crofts on some of the best agricultural ground in the district. Originally the name covered a much more extensive area than at present. In 1732, John Letham, merchant in Glasgow, feued 85 acres called "the hill of Rachasie," but that name soon fell into disuse, and the estate came to be called after the owner, and is known as Lethamhill. In the same year John Cameron, merchant, feued "the town and lands of Rachasie," which contained 107 acres or thereby. This feu is described as being "that part of Ruchazie commonly called

II. RUCHAZIE

Ruchazie was situated near the centre of the Provan, and was easily accessible from all directions. Earlier spellings of the name are "Rachasie," "Rachesie," "Rachaisie," "Rachazzie," "Roughazie," and the place-name probably comes from "ra" or "rath"¹ (pronounced raw), meaning a fort, a place of security, and "ea," "esc," water. The site forms one of the most elevated pieces of land in the neighbourhood, and as such would be the natural place for an ancient native stronghold, with its encircling "rath" protecting it from the attacks of enemies, and cutting off the homesteads from the surrounding waste. Caesar's account of a British town is that it was simply a place of security protected with a ditch and rampart to serve as a place of retreat when attacked by enemies. Thus the name Ruchazie would mean the fort beside the

¹ The "rath" around which early Glasgow grew is preserved in the place-name, Rottenrow.

Garthliscanhill." It would thus appear that the name "Ruchazie" was given to the whole ridge lying along the south of Hogganfield and Frankfield Lochs.

The village as we know it to-day is an old-world place, situated four miles north-east of the Royal Exchange, and standing three hundred feet above sea-level. The site commands an extensive view southward over the Clyde valley and northward to the Campsie Hills. The village has the appearance of being a deserted place. No doubt its proximity to Glasgow and the lack of industries prevented its modern development: it has been left behind in the march of progress. But as a crofting centre it contained the houses of the tradesmen on whose labours much of the comfort of a rural community depended, the builder and the thatcher, the joiner and the blacksmith. It was also the educational centre for a wide district. After the parish of Shettleston was formed it continued to be one of the most populous villages within its bounds.

III. EARLY SCOTTISH EDUCATION

When public education began in Scotland cannot be stated with any degree of accuracy, but it is probable that with the settlement of St. Columba in Iona the earliest foundations of learning and education were laid within it. Thereafter for centuries the history of the Christian church is intimately connected with the progress of education and civilization. It may be assumed that in ancient times every religious and monastic house had some kind of school or training institution connected with it. Wherever a religious house was founded, part of its activity would consist in the preparation of the younger members of the community for the services of the church, and would include that degree of learning necessary for conducting public worship and carrying on missionary work among the people. An important part of the duty of those early schools consisted in making translations and copies of the Scriptures as well as

in copying the few books which formed the monastic library, though no doubt the chief occupations of the brethren were largely industrial. Religious houses were centres of industry. Monks were zealous agriculturists and gardeners at a time when fighting, hunting and hawking formed the chief business of their neighbours. The arts of peace were cultivated within the Abbey walls.

But apart from industrial training, one of the earliest forms which education took was that of teaching singing in "sang schools," as they were called. At first, perhaps, they existed only in cathedrals and cathedral towns for the training of boys intended for the choir; but long before the Reformation, we find them not only in the seats of the abbey, but in almost all the leading towns in Scotland. There is no evidence that any other subjects were taught in these institutions, except "music, meaners, and vertew." A school whose curriculum consisted of these subjects must have provided a liberal education. After the Reformation there is evidence that English was taught in some of them in addition to music, but the distinctive feature of the "sang school" remained down to the beginning of the eighteenth century. Though these schools were primarily founded to aid the service of the church, provision

was made to give musical instruction to all who were willing to take advantage of it. Thus these schools fostered a love of music and poetry, and cultivated the art of singing, which was a valuable factor in the recreation and amusements of a rural community.

Our earliest schools—Grammar, English or sang schools—were not created by Act of Parliament, but had their origin in the church or were called into existence by the people themselves. In whatever way they were formed, there is evidence that towards the end of the fifteenth century schools had been planted in every considerable town in Scotland, as well as in several rural parishes. One of the earliest references to them is in connection with Kelso Abbey. Matilda, the widowed lady of Molle, granted, in 1260, a part of her dowry lands in the Merse to the Abbot and monks of Kelso on condition that they should board and educate her son William, with the best boys who were then entrusted to their care.

The best known enactment on education is the statute of 1496, in the reign of James IV. It required that all barons and freeholders should send their eldest sons to school "fra thai be aucht or nyne years of age," and enjoined them to keep them there until they were well grounded

and had perfect Latin. The statute further provided that the sons should thereafter remain three years at the schools of art and law. The object of this early example of "compulsory education" is a high one: "That justice may reign universally throughout the realm, and that those who are sherriffs or judges may have knowledge to do justice, so that the poor people should have no need to see our sovereign lord's principal auditors for every little injury." The Act assumes the existence of sufficient schools for the necessary training. That the schools were secondary or higher is also implied, both because of the subjects prescribed and the social class on whom the obligation to attend them was laid. As a matter of fact, the Grammar schools which existed all over Scotland in the sixteenth century were "higher" schools, as Latin appears to have been the language in which instruction was given. No doubt they had as their primary aim the training of ecclesiastics, but it is apparent that the object of the statute of 1496 was to enjoin attendance on the part of secular students so that they might be fitted for the public service. Besides, before the passing of the Act, three of our four Universities had been founded,—St. Andrews in 1411, Glasgow in 1451, and Aberdeen in 1494. It is highly probable that

the purpose of the statute was to prepare the youth of the country for taking full advantage of the instruction supplied in them.

It is not known how far the Act was observed, but the statute of James IV. has a special interest for us because of the King's connection with Glasgow and the Provan. The King was a Canon of Glasgow Cathedral and is said to have been the first to use the title, "Lord of the Provan." He warmly espoused the cause of the see, and largely through his exertions Glasgow was in 1492 raised to the dignity of an Archbishopric. It may have been in acknowledgment of these services to the church that he was appointed Canon of Barlanark and Lord of the Provan. On 31st December of the same year, the Lord Treasurer paid £48 for twelve elne of velvet "to lyne a half lang gown of Frensche black" which the Dean of Glasgow gave the King. It seems likely that the gift was his Majesty's canonical robe, and that he actually discharged the duties of the office. It may be that the office held by the King was honorary. It was a common practice for continental kings and princes to be canons of religious establishments, and the Scottish sovereign was only following the precedent set in Europe. Father Innes refers to "King James IV. who was

honorary Canon of Glasgow as the Kings of France are of St. Martin's of Tours." That the King was superior of Provan, and held an office which enabled him to reside from time to time in the district there can be no doubt. We would like to think that he did so, and took a kingly interest in the affairs of his local subjects, as well as made it his duty that the sons of the freeholders in the Provan enjoyed the benefit of his statute of 1496. It may in any case be reasonably assumed that there was always a place for a "lad o' pairts" in the sang school of the Cathedral, or in the Grammar School of Glasgow. A residence for the Lords of Provan stood at Provanhall. The town lodging still exists and is the well-known Provand's Lordship in High Street. In going to and from their country manor house, the ecclesiastics must have been familiar with the township of Ruchazie. In any case, the bishop had a country seat at the Bishop's Loch about two miles east, where they frequently resided. Attached to the residence was a chapel from which charters were often dated. The King, who was many times in Glasgow, would also be a guest at Lochwood, and no doubt would enjoy the sport of hunting, hawking and fishing, for game abounded in the woods, the lochs and streams of the Provan. The very

familiarity of these dignitaries, royal and ecclesiastical, with the township might result in the special training of one or more of its inhabitants for wider service.

IV. THE EARLIEST KNOWN SCHOOL

1667-1729

Whatever may have been the provision for education in the Provan after the Reformation and before the Town Council of Glasgow acquired the estate, there is undoubted evidence that between 1667 and 1729 there was a school in full working order at Ruchazie. In 1696, a statute was passed by the Scottish Parliament which recast the system of popular education. The first great impetus given to education had come from the Reformers, who saw that the strength of their movement lay in the enlightenment of the people. Hence the scheme suggested in the *First Book of Discipline* in 1560, was to plant beside every church a school where the rudiments of learning might be acquired.¹

¹ "Off necessitie thairfore we judge it, that everie severall Church have a Schoolmaister appointed, suche a one as is able, at least, to teache Grammer and the Latine tounge, yf the Toun be of any reputatioun. Yf it be Upaland, whaire the people convene to doctrine bot once in a weeke, then must eathir the Reidar or the Minister thair appointed, take carye over the

THE EARLIEST KNOWN SCHOOL 29

The Act of 1696 made the plans laid down by John Knox compulsory, and the parochial school system was established. It required the heritors in every parish to provide a suitable schoolhouse and a salary for the teacher of not less than 100 merks per annum. The Presbytery of the bounds was also authorised, in case of default, to provide the schoolhouse and the teacher's salary at the cost of the heritors. It was through this statute that the Scottish peasantry have become famous for intelligence and enterprise, and the country as a whole acquired the reputation of being the best educated in Europe. Those who worked in the humblest sphere—labourers, cottars, shepherds—frequently exercised the utmost self-denial that their children might share in the benefits of a good education; for the parochial system did not merely provide elementary education, but the Scottish boy found his way straight from the parish school to the University.

In spite of the fact that the Act expressly stipulated that the heritors should "meet and provide a commodious house for a school," the instruction was often "more honoured in the breach, than in the observance." Any kind of children and youth of the parische, to instruct them in their first rudiments and especiallie in the Catechisme, as we have it now translated in the Booke of our Common Ordour, callit the Ordour of Geneva" (*First Book of Discipline*, Laing's *Knox*, II. 209).

building, a stable, a byre, a smithy, a shoe-maker's house, a church steeple, a session-house, even the tolbooth or prison, was considered good enough for the purpose. The humble schoolhouse was often a rented building. Entries are found in session records of rent paid as "sculehouse maill," out of the penalties exacted from parish delinquents. As often as not, the teacher himself was compelled to rent the building out of his own meagre salary. In spite of the poverty of the country there was a passion in Scotland for education, and in rural districts the school was often provided, and the teacher paid, by the voluntary gifts of the people.

There can be no doubt that if a school did not exist at Ruchazie before the passing of the Act, one came into existence very soon after, and the crofters and tenants of the Provan secured for their children the boon of a school in their midst. The responsible authority was the heritors of the Barony, and it appears that in 1705 they had four schools under their care. These were situated at Kelvindock in the north-west, at Shettleston in the east, at Anderston, and at Ruchazie in the north-east. The heritors paid the maximum legal salary, 200 merks,¹ the sum

¹ A merk was not a coin but a value equal to 13s. 4d. £1 Scots equalled 1s. 8d. sterling.

being equally divided among the teachers. The schoolhouses seem to have been either rented buildings or were erected by private enterprise, for none of them was built at the cost of the heritors during the period. It is specially interesting to know that the school at Ruchazie was built by the crofters and tenants of Provan at their own charge. No doubt it was a very humble building, built of wood and turf, with a thatched roof, and probably served for the teacher's dwelling house as well as for a school. Later on, as we shall see, it was mistaken for a crofter's outhouse, or a building attached to a farm, and included with other houses at Ruchazie when the town and lands were feued. While we know little or nothing about the schoolhouse, one fact about the teacher's salary has been preserved. The town of Glasgow was the chief heritor, and the teacher enjoyed an annual payment from it, which seems to have been in addition to his legal salary of 50 merks. In the records of the burgh, according to an entry dated 1713-14, "Robert Thomson, schoolmaster in Provan was paid as his year's fee from Whitsunday 1713, to Whitsunday 1714, £12 os. od."

V. THE SECOND SCHOOL

1739-1809

Before the town of Glasgow acquired the Provan Estate in 1667, certain portions in the west—Milton, Ballornock, Balgray, Germiston (Meadowland), and Hogganfield—had been feued by the previous owner. The town does not seem to have made any change on its estate till 1729, when it disposed to five merchants, who were colloquially called “the Five Lords of Provan,” the unfeued portion, amounting to over 2,000 acres (Scots), for a grassum or lump sum of £64,495 12s. Scots or £5,375 8s. 8d. sterling, plus an annual feu duty of £1,240 6s. Scots or £103 8s. sterling.

In implementing this sale, the town granted in 1732 fifteen separate feus to as many persons, most of whom no doubt had previously held the farms as tenants. These feuars, along with the five previous ones, were now the owners of the land, paying an annual feu duty to the town as

superior of the estate. They also formed part of the heritors of the Barony parish.

In 1739, a noteworthy petition was submitted by them to the Magistrates and Council of Glasgow. They stated that for the benefit and instruction of the young, they had built at their own charge a schoolhouse at Ruchazie in Provan, and that through inadvertency, and by not making proper application at the time when the feus were granted, the schoolhouse was included with the other houses at Ruchazie, and had been acquired by John Cameron. The petitioners also reminded the Council that the town had always allowed twenty shillings sterling yearly as salary for the encouragement of the schoolmaster. The petition then goes on to state that the feuars were again at their own cost about to erect a new schoolhouse and the request is made that the town should continue the annual payment to the teacher.

The Magistrates and Council having considered the petition agreed that if the feuars built a proper schoolhouse upon a suitable site to the satisfaction of the Magistrates, they would continue to pay the usual sum. We have no record of the building of the schoolhouse, but there can be no doubt that it was duly erected. The town at least was satisfied with the provision made by the feuars, for it continued the payment. Two

entries occur in the town records regarding the salary. In 1752-53, John Thomson, schoolmaster in Provan, was paid "as the town's part of his salary" £1 os. od. ; and in 1757-58, Andrew Morison received the same amount.

Great changes passed over Scotland during the eighteenth century, but they brought no improvement to the position of its schoolmasters. Their condition had gradually grown worse. A salary of 100 merks, which may have been sufficient to maintain a teacher's position in 1696, was totally inadequate one hundred years later. The teacher was generally paid in Scots money, and he suffered grievously from the difference between the salary paid and its value in sterling money. Scots money was only worth one twelfth of sterling money, and as the new standard came into common use in the payment of services and commodities, the teachers £100 was only worth £8 6s. 8d. In 1802 the General Assembly called the attention of Parliament to the deplorable state of education in the country. "The parochial schoolmasters," it was stated, "were well entitled to public encouragement, yet from the decrease in the value of money their emoluments had descended below the gains of a day labourer. It had consequently been found impossible to procure qualified

persons to fill parochial schools ; the whole order was sinking to a state of depression, hurtful to their usefulness ; and it was desirable that some means should be devised to hold forth inducements to men of good principles to undertake the duties of parochial schoolmasters."

In 1803, Parliament passed an Act amending the statute of 1696. It raised salaries to 300 merks with a maximum of 400 merks per annum, and where there were not a proper schoolhouse, a dwelling house for the teacher, as well as a garden of not less than a quarter of an acre, the heritors must provide them. At a meeting of the Barony heritors held in the year in which the Act was passed the statute was duly read. The minister, Dr. Burns, stated that within the parish there were still the four schools set up by a meeting of heritors on 12th October 1705, and that the present salary of 200 merks was divided equally among their teachers. The meeting having considered the great extent and population of the parish, and noting that there were no dwelling houses nor gardens attached to any of the schools, were unanimously of the opinion that the sum of 600 merks should be the salary of the schoolmasters, and agreed that this amount should be paid annually for twenty-five years to come. It was further resolved that

the sum should as before be equally divided among the masters. The statute evidently contemplated that as provision was made for only one church and minister in every parish, so one schoolmaster was sufficient for the educational needs. Four schools had been provided for the Barony, and it is worth noting that while the legal salary was 200 merks above the maximum, the teachers were all placed on the same scale. The heritors also appointed a committee to draw up a report on the schools, and this was submitted at a meeting held on 13th February 1804. It gives a full statement of the subjects taught, as well as a description of the buildings, and how they had been provided. At Ruchazie, it is stated, the curriculum consisted of English, Latin, writing and arithmetic. The average number of scholars for the past three years had been between forty-five and fifty. The fees were 3s. per quarter; poor children placed in the school by the Session were charged 2s. per quarter. The yearly salary of the schoolmaster was declared to be £2 2s. It was further stated in the report that "there was no dwelling house nor garden, and that the school room was rented."

This is rather an unfortunate end to a period which began with the enthusiasm of the feuars in building a new school at their own cost. It

has to be noted that the lack of school buildings meant that no provision so far had been made by the heritors to provide a school, a dwelling house and a garden for the teacher. The report only gives the legal salary payable by the heritors up to the passing of the Act of 1803. In addition he had the school fees and other perquisites belonging to his office. No longer was the town of Glasgow chief heritor in the Provan, and the annual payment no doubt ceased when the town sold the superiorities in 1767, or shortly thereafter.

Several years passed before adequate buildings and gardens were supplied, but the four teachers claimed at once the rights and privileges of parochial schoolmasters, and John M'Lachlan was duly certified as such at Ruchazie, and his office carried with it the salary of £100 Scots with fees and perquisites.

VI. NEW PAROCHIAL SCHOOL 1810-1857

Seven years after the passing of the Act of 1803, a new school was erected at the expense of the heritors. In the Records of the Burgh of Glasgow there is an entry, dated 28th October 1809, which reads as follows:—"On considering a letter from Mr. Morrison, Bailie of Provan, the Magistrates and Council authorise the Lord Provost to subscribe along with the other heritors, towards the expense of erecting a new parochial school at Ruchazie, in proportion to the valuation of the town's property in the Barony of Provan at the rate of 1s. 6d. per pound." This statement has some historic interest, for it records what was probably the last public service which the Bailie of Provan rendered to the district in the discharge of the office he held. It also shows that the town was but one of the heritors. Its property consisted only of the mill at Provanmill, and the few acres adjacent to it. Amid all

changes, the town retained the mill and the water rights in the Provan. The Bailie continued to have a seat in the Council till the passing of the Burgh Reform Act in 1832, but his duties must have consisted solely in settling any dispute which arose at the mill between the feuars and farmers who were thirled to it, and the town who were the owners.

The school was erected in the following year, and we have no further information about it till 1827, when John M'Lachlan, the schoolmaster, sent a petition to the heritors, in which he stated that, although the school at Ruchazie had been built by the heritors of the Provan lands, the money raised had not been sufficient to furnish it. He had himself been obliged to expend a few pounds out of his own pocket in completing the work. The petition further stated that the schoolmaster had frequently paid out money of his own to the extent of one pound sterling, in pointing the walls and repairing the roof, as the heritors had not been charged for any repairs since the building was erected. Altogether he calculated that he had thus spent £16 sterling. The petitioner accordingly requested that this sum should be refunded. The petition goes on to describe the condition in which the buildings were, and the repairs which

were absolutely necessary ; the window frames were rotten, and needed to be renewed ; the floor of the schoolroom was so bad and uneven that the seats could not be kept in their proper position ; and the walls required casting, as in a storm the rain beat through them and ran down in streams upon the floors of the different apartments.

A committee of the heritors was appointed to visit the school and report. In the following March their report was submitted, and it was agreed that the floor should be lifted, and a new one laid down in wood ; that the three windows on the north side of the schoolhouse be renewed ; that the outer walls be recast ; and a new ridge be laid on the roof, besides smaller repairs. Two estimates were submitted, one for £28 10s. 6d., and another for £26 11s. 7d. Before carrying out the repairs, the heritors resolved to examine the Act to see if they had power to proceed. They also resolved to allow the schoolmaster £8 16s. 4d. for his outlays. The teacher no doubt received the sum, which amounted to little more than the half of his bill, and the heritors discovered from an examination of the Act that they were responsible for the necessary repairs on the buildings. The work was accordingly done at the lowest estimate.

Under the Act of 1803, which fixed the salary of parochial teachers at 400 merks, there was a clause which provided that the scale should be revised every twenty-five years, according to the average price of oatmeal. The sum was to range from one and a half chalders to two chalders. Accordingly in 1828 the heritors took into consideration the salaries of the schoolmasters of the parish, and for the first time it appears that the income was calculated in terms of sterling money. It was estimated that the average value of a chalder was £17 2s. 2½d., and the amount was fixed at three chalders to be divided as formerly. This was of course the new legal income, but augmented in the usual way.

During the period under review, Shettleston was formed into a parish, and the school came under the management of the Barony Parochial Board in conjunction with the new Kirk Session. The story of the parish is easily told. The church was built as a chapel of ease in 1752, but the district was not constituted into a parish, *quod sacra*, by Act of General Assembly, until 31st May 1834 : it was created a parish *quod omnia* by the Court of Teinds on 30th June 1847. When the church was erected it was made to serve a district which included part of the parishes of Barony and Old Monkland. On 2nd January

1760, a petition was presented by the Managers, to the Magistrates and Council of Glasgow requesting a contribution towards the cost of the building on the ground that the Kirk is "particularly useful to the City's feuars in the lordship of the barony of Provane who make a considerable part of the congregation." The town gave a grant of £25 sterling towards defraying the debt that then lay on the building.

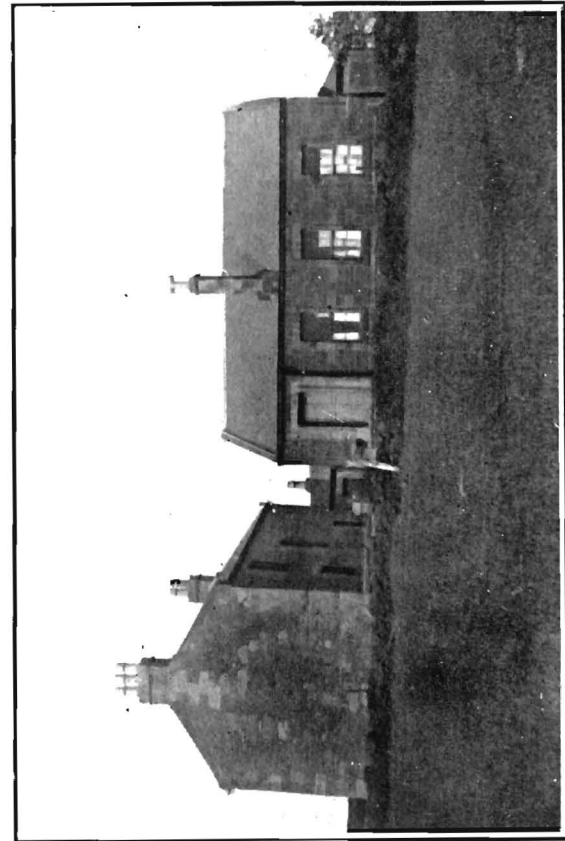
Two schools were within the bounds of the new parish ; one in the village of Shettleston, the other at Ruchazie. Both continued to be ranked as parochial schools, till the passing of the Education Act of 1872. In 1849 the managers of the school received a Government grant of £191 6s. towards repairs on, and probably the enlargement of, the school at Ruchazie.

VII. SHETTLESTON PARISH SCHOOL, 1857

The feu charter of the school and dwelling house, which are still standing, is dated 1857 ; no feu seems to have been granted for the earlier buildings. When the first and second schools were erected the town of Glasgow was the owner or superior of the lands, and as such was responsible for the education of the district. There was therefore no reason for formally granting a feu for the site. It might have been thought necessary to secure a feu for one in 1810, but probably the earlier precedents were followed. Before 1857, however, Parliamentary grants in aid of education had been given, and one of the conditions under which the money was paid was that the school buildings should be vested in the name of the managers. The feu of 1857 is granted by George Miller, the proprietor, in favour of the minister and Kirk Session as a site for a school in connection with the Established Church in the parish of Shettleston

and for the residence for the teacher, and "for no other purpose whatever."

Dr. Black, minister of the Barony Church, who died in 1851, appears to have taken a very deep interest in the success of the school. Under his directions a plan with specifications and an estimate for certain repairs and the enlargement of the school and dwelling house had been prepared. The alterations were to cost £160 besides the cartage of material. At the time of his death, there was in his possession the sum of £50 for defraying the cost. This sum together with another £50 voted by the Kirk Session of the Barony was in 1852 handed over to Shettleston Kirk Session, who decided to deposit the whole amount in the bank, until an endeavour was made to obtain the remaining £60 from Government or otherwise. Nothing further seems to have been done till 1856, when it was reported to the Session that "steps are now being taken towards the erection of a new school at Ruchazie, and that a local subscription was being made for the object." The Session resolved to contribute £5. Towards the close of the year a committee appointed to visit and examine the school and dwelling house, recommended the Session to proceed with all convenient speed towards the erection of a new school house. Local



RUCHAZIE SCHOOL HOUSE.

parties had agreed to raise £50, which with the £100 already in hand was considered sufficient, provided that a similar sum was obtained from the Government. The statement was considered satisfactory, and the committee was instructed to go on with the work. In 1858 when the legal account of £10 10s. for preparing the title deeds was rendered, the Session agreed to pay the bill, and set it down as a further subscription towards the cost of the new school. The total cost of the building cannot be stated ; but no assessment was laid on the heritors, though the debt does not seem to have been cleared off till 1866.

The loosening of the tie between the old parochial schools and the church took place in 1861, when an Act of Parliament was passed transferring to Scottish Universities the examination of parochial teachers which had formerly been intrusted to Presbyteries. In a clause of this Act it is ordered that the salary of every schoolmaster of any parochial school should not be less than thirty-five pounds, nor more than seventy per annum. This was a considerable increase in the emoluments. In the event of there being two or more schools established in the same parish, the minimum and maximum amount was fixed at fifty and eighty pounds a

year divided between or among the teachers by the heritors in terms of the Act of 1803. It was also declared that when it was necessary to provide a dwelling house for the schoolmaster, the house was to consist of at least three apartments besides a kitchen. Following upon the Act, the Shettleston heritors agreed that their schoolmasters should be paid seventy pounds per annum. The sum was divided between their two teachers, £45 being allocated to Ruchazie, and £25 to Shettleston. The teacher at Ruchazie, however, was ordered to employ a female teacher to give instruction in industrial work, and to pay her out of his own income a sum of £10 per annum. He was further informed that he must give proper attention to an evening school.

VIII. SHETTLESTON SCHOOL BOARD, 1872

The special feature of the Education Act of 1872 was its thoroughness. It practically swept away the system previously in existence, and substituted a new and complete scheme. The duties of School Boards are so well known, and have been so recently superseded by the County Education Authority, that it is unnecessary to give any details regarding them. When the Shettleston School Board was first elected, there were within the area two parochial schools; an Industrial School at Eastmuir; a school at Provanhall Works; an adventure school at Shettleston; a United Presbyterian School at Tollcross; a Subscription School at Millerston; and a Roman Catholic School at Shettleston. There was also a Reformatory School at Dalbeth, "which was only available for its own inmates;" while conveniently available for the parish, and actually used to some extent were the

following :—Clyde Iron Works School ; Public School at Parkhead ; and another Public School in Duke Street, Glasgow.

One of the acts of the newly constituted Board was to consider the extent and quality of the educational equipment which the existing schools supplied. The following is the report regarding Ruchazie :—“ The extent of ground, including the site of the school and the school-master’s house is about 1190 yards, and the feu duty is nominal. The former can accommodate ninety children, and the latter consists of four rooms and kitchen. The whole buildings are in need of some repair. In this old-fashioned school there were two teachers, one male certificated, and one female uncertificated, with fifty-four children under thirteen years of age on the roll, and ten above thirteen years, while the average attendance showed that fifty-three out of fifty-four, and eight out of ten attended school. The subjects taught were reading, writing, arithmetic, higher English and Latin, for which a fee of three pence per week or four-and-six-pence per quarter. The schoolhouse was situated a quarter of a mile from the nearest school.”

This report of Ruchazie school might be compared with that of the other parish school at Shettleston, where there was only one male

teacher, and the number of scholars on the roll was fifty-four under thirteen years of age, and none over that age, while the subjects taught were reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and grammar. Ruchazie was the parish school which had a higher class, and contained a larger number of senior scholars, than any other school within the jurisdiction of the Board.

The Board held that the Ruchazie school was required and was sufficient for the needs of Ruchazie, Milncroft, Cumbernauld Road, and Millerston, all in the north-west of the parish. Within these limits, according to the school census, there were one hundred and thirty-five children of school age. The school buildings, however, were much in need of repair, and there was a probability of the school itself requiring to be enlarged at an early date to accommodate the children of those who were employed in some new works started in the neighbourhood. Brick making had commenced at Gartcraig, and new dwelling houses were being erected for the workers.

Following on this report, a memorial was sent to the Scottish Education Department in 1873, asking that a grant be made for the purpose of enlarging the school buildings. “ This school,” the Board stated, “ which is one of the old

fashioned nature, being severely plain, has a school-master's house abutting on the south end of the building." The memorial asked for a grant to make the school capable of accommodating sixty-seven boys and fifty-three girls as well as eighty infants. "The school," it was stated, "was intended for the elementary instruction of the children in the district of said school, which district is four and a half miles in length and two and three-quarters in breadth, and according to the 1871 census had a population of 7,517 inhabitants." The Board submitted that the present school was too small to accommodate all the children in the area which it served and that the population was increasing.

The negotiations between the Board and the Department were carried on for several years, for care required to be exercised in regard to the adjustment of educational facilities for the whole district, and future needs had to be taken into account. At Provanhall, for example, in the north-east of the parish a school had been built between 1840-50 for the children of the workers employed by the Coal Company there. Employers recognised the necessity of education for the children of their workmen, and schools were maintained by making a weekly levy on their wages. In 1872, the Provanhall school

had one teacher with a University training, and one hundred and sixty-eight children under thirteen years of age on the roll. The Board considered that it was possible that, with the passing of the Act, the proprietors might cease to make provision for the school, and if a satisfactory arrangement could not be come to for its continuation, at a rent or otherwise, it might be found necessary to erect new school buildings, including a dwelling house, the former to provide accommodation for one hundred and thirty children.

In the north-west there was a subscription school at Millerston where accommodation was provided for ninety scholars. This school was a rented building. If this school were abandoned by the subscribers, the Board held that the children could be accommodated at Ruchazie. A proposal, however, was made by Springburn Board to provide a combination school to supply Millerston, Blackhill, Provanhill and Stepps, which were situated in the three parishes of Shettleston, Springburn and Stepps. The Shettleston Board agreed to the proposal, provided that their share of the cost should be in proportion to the number of children within their area. If this plan was carried out the village of Millerston would be detached from Ruchazie, and

therefore it was quite probable that no additions would be required to be made to that school.

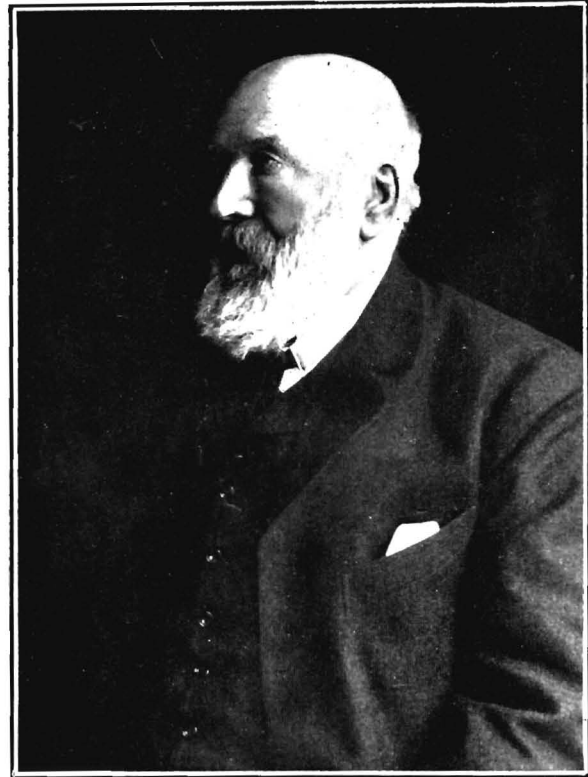
The question, discussed at great length, and over a considerable period, between the Board and the Department was the relation of these two schools to the school at Ruchazie. The decision finally reached was to erect a new school at Garthamloch for the north-eastern part of the parish, and a combination one between the parishes of Shettleston and Springburn at Millerston. With the erection of the former in 1880, Provanhall was closed, and the school and teachers at Ruchazie were transferred to the new building. Thus a school which had been the educational centre of the Provan, as well as a parochial school of the Barony and Shettleston parishes for nearly two centuries, was abandoned.

IX. THE LAST SCHOOLMASTER

The last Ruchazie teacher was William Whyte, who was born in Glasgow as far back as 1825. In his training and career as a teacher he may be regarded as a type of the Scottish Parochial Schoolmaster of last century. From Paisley English School, he went to the High School of Glasgow, where he received a classical education. A year in the College, and the Normal Institution, which had been recently opened, with special classes in modern languages at the Andersonian University completed his training. Mr. Whyte was hardly out of his teens when he started the subscription school in the village of Millerston. This was really a private or voluntary school supported by the subscribers. He was at the time described as having "received a classical education, and is well versed in Latin and Greek, and higher Mathematics, as well as in the ordinary branches of an English and Mercantile Education." The venture at Millerston

proved most successful, and he soon gathered a school of nearly one hundred scholars. Dr. Black, minister of the Barony, visited it in 1850, and he has left us a vivid description of a voluntary school and its teacher seventy years ago: "The cleanly appearance and cheerful countenances of the children—the perfect order and submission that prevailed amongst them, and the readiness with which they answered the various questions put to them, clearly showed how thoroughly the teacher had gained the command, not only of the understandings, but likewise of the hearts and the affections of his pupils. Mr. Whyte not only possesses a competent knowledge of all the ordinary branches of a commercial education, but also combines in an eminent degree, the power of imparting knowledge to the youngest capacity. His energy and vigour in teaching are such as to keep all alive and attentive, while his method of analysing the lessons is so simple and interesting as completely to rivet the attention of the children, and effectually convey the meaning to their minds."

In 1851, the parish school at Ruchazie became vacant, and Whyte was unanimously asked by the Barony Parochial Board to take charge of it. Here he laboured for thirty years. In 1858 he received the certificate which recog-



WILLIAM WHYTE,
THE LAST SCHOOLMASTER AT RUCHAZIE.

nised him as a teacher capable of earning a Government grant. The first inspection of the school seems to have been made in 1861, when Professor Jack, H.M. Inspector, certified the condition of the school as follows :—" W. Whyte teaches this school with great zeal and creditable method." The last inspection of the school was made in 1880, by Dr. Kerr :—" This school generally has made good progress during the year."

In 1881, Whyte was transferred by the Shettleston School Board to the new school at Garthamloch, where he continued to teach for seven years. In 1888, he retired on a pension, which was supplemented by the Board to the maximum sum, and he was allowed to retain the dwelling house at Ruchazie, on condition that he kept the building in good repair. In 1915, he surrendered the house and spent his closing days in Glasgow. In terms of the feu charter the buildings at Ruchazie were handed over by the Board to the proprietor, J. G. Williamson. Whyte died on 14th April 1916, at the age of ninety-one years, being at the time the oldest of the parochial schoolmasters of Scotland. He was twice married, and had a family of twenty children.

Mr. Whyte was a man of character and had

his own ideas of how a school should be conducted. He was impatient of the more inquisitorial methods of inspection adopted under the recent Educational Acts, and did his best to show their futility. It is to be feared that his manner of receiving Government officials did not tend to the production of very favourable reports on the earnest and vigorous work he did. The classics were to him the sign and seal of true education, and he was fond of proving that his school favoured that form of instruction. He was sympathetically aided in his duties by his wife who supervised the domestic side of the training of her husband's scholars.

Outside of school routine, Whyte had many interests. He took his share in the politics of his profession, and aided general culture by the part he played in Millerston Literary Society, where he was a kind of oracle among members who had largely been pupils of his own.

It was appropriate that he should have been the last Schoolmaster of Ruchazie, for with him and the school there passed away outstanding examples of a class of men and institutions that have done so much for rural Scotland.

Postscript.

As these sheets were passing through the press, it was intimated that the lands of Ruchazie had been acquired by the City of Glasgow for a public park. An opportunity is thus given of associating the ancient name of Ruchazie or Provan, both characteristic of the whole locality, with a recreation ground that will soon be familiar to all the citizens.