

MILLPORT, a post-town, seaport, and watering place, on the island of Big Cumbray, Buteshire. It stretches round a pleasantly sheltered small bay at the south end of the island; partly overlooks' the Little Cumbray, and partly confronts the opening through Fairley road to the bay of Ayr or eastern side of the frith of Clyde; and is situated 2 ½ miles west of the nearest part of the Ayrshire coast, 5 miles south-west of Largs, 11 south and 24 south of Greenock. Its form is that of the segment of a circle; its houses are almost all neat, two storey, whitewashed structures its handsome parish-church, surmounted by a low square tower, looks out from an area in the middle of the curve; and the entire appearance of the place is air and not a little pleasant. But for a great paucity wood in the environs, the village and its vicinity would be one of the most beautiful places on the Clyde. Yet either the spot itself, or any one of several vantage-grounds in_ its immediate neighbourhood, commands magnificent views of the firth of Clyde, the cultivated slopes of the Ayrshire sea board, thickly embellished with villas and the body and wings of Fairley and Largs, the spiry and bold mountains of Arran, the gentle coasts of the Isle of Bute, the rugged outlines of the Argyleshire alps,—altogether a most magnificent panorama, great in extent very diversified in feature, and containing many grand groupings of the picturesque. The edifices of the town and its environs, also, are interesting. 'The Episcopalian church and college, in particular, form an elegant range of buildings, with a pyramidal spire. 'There are in the town a Free church, a Baptist place of worship, a parochial school, a Free church school, two schools of industry for females, an Episcopalian boys' school, and an Episcopalian girls' school. There are also a reading-room, a public library, a Free church congregational library, an Episcopalian lending library, a gas light company, and a harbour company, There are five resident justices of the peace; and sheriff small debt courts held in February, May, August, and November. Millport is a creek of the port of Greenock. The amount of harbour dues levied in 1852 was £210, The harbour, though of small capacity, contain vessels of considerable burthen; and has a. fine pier, erected chiefly at the expense of thee Marquis of Bute. The depth, at low water, is 6 feet, and, at high-water, 14 feet. Immediately adjacent to the harbour is a good anchoring ground, capable of accommodating several ships, fully protected by two islets called the Allans, and affording safety to vessels during the prevalence of the most violent storms.

Fifteen or sixteen sloops belong to the place, some carrying so few as 14 and nene more than 40 tons each. Six steam-boats in summer, and two in winter, maintain daily communication with Glasgow, and with places intermediate. Millport depends, to a large extent, for its support on the influx during summer of temporary residents from Glasgow; it wears almost wholly and even characteristically the aspect of a sea-bathing quarter; and it has steadily risen and maintained its footing in popular favour. The operative part of the population are employed either in the fisheries, or in weaving for the manuiacturers of Glasgow. 'The number of looms is about twenty. The population at the Census in April 1861 was 1,104.