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PARISH OF SPYNIE, OR NEW SPYNIE.

*(County and Synod of Moray.—Presbytery of Elgin.)**By the Reverend Mr ABRAHAM GORDON, Minister.**Name, Lake, Fish, &c.*

THE LOCH of SPYNIE, which has given this parish its name, is the first object in a statistical account which claims attention. This lake is more than 3 miles in length, and about 1 in breadth. It bounds the parish along its N. side, and appears to have been a Frith of the Sea, though it is now shut up by a long extent of valuable land at each end, both on the E. and W. Accordingly part of the country, between the lake and the sea, still retains the name of ROSS ISLE; and there is a place near its western end called KINTRAE, (in Gaelic, *Cean Traidhe*,) which signifies, *the Head of the Tide*. Besides which, beds of shells, principally oysters, which are not now found on the coast, are frequently discovered on the banks of the lake, several feet below the surface of the earth *. This lake abounds with swans; and

* It appears, from the *Chartulary of Moray*, that, in the 13th century, small boats were sent from the village of Spynie to fish in the sea; in testimony of which, a heap of shells, collected by the fishers, was lately discovered, under a thin covering of earth, on the ground where the village stood. It also appears, from

and FORDON, in his History, remarks it as a curiosity. There are also perch and trout in this lake.

Palace.—The BISHOP'S PALACE is the next object to which the attention is most naturally called. It is situated in the eastern extremity of the parish, on the bank of the lake ;

from the chartulary, that, in 1451, the bishop got this village erected into a burgh of barony, and the next year into a burgh of regality ; but there is now no other vestige of it than a market cross. But although it is evident, that, at a period comparatively not remote, the sea flowed into the space which the lake now occupies, and covered, besides, a large extent of land at each end of it ; yet it is also obvious, that, at a still more recent period, the bounds of this lake were more limited than at present. For, a few years ago, when the canal, which had long been neglected, was cleaned out and enlarged, a causeway was discovered, stretching from this parish quite across the lake, in which there were several passages for the water, each about 3 feet wide, and covered by a thick flag-stone ; and, upon its appearance, a tradition was recollected, that this causeway was called *the Bishop's Steps*, and had been formed by his influence, for the accommodation of the ministers of St. Andrew's, who officiated also in the church of *Ogveston*, (since united to *Drainy*,) both having been mensal churches before the establishment of Presbytery. Bishop Falconer told the author this ; and that the Bishop's priest, who officiated, had prayers in the forenoon in the one, and in the afternoon in the other, and thereafter his dinner in the Castle every Sunday. This causeway was soon converted, by Mr BRANDER of PITGAVENY, into a substantial road, by which a more direct communication was opened between Elgin and the shore. And as he is now farther improving the canal, so as to gain nearly two feet of additional fall, it is expected, when this work is completed, that the lake will be again reduced to its ancient narrow limits. It may be farther observed, that it has been conjectured, that the vast quantity of land washed up by the sea, on the coast between Nairn and Findhorn, and drifted eastward by the wind over the estate of *Cubin*, destroyed the oysters on the coast, and shut up the lake on the west, which, preventing any current, permitted the alluvion of the river Spey to close it in at the east, as the appearance of the ground seems still to shew.

lake; and near to it, where the water is deepest, a small artificial island emerged, upon clearing out the canal, of an oval form, about 60 by 16 paces, appearing to be composed of stones from the quarry, bound together by crooked branches of oak, and as if the earth, with which it was completed, had been wholly washed off during its submersion. The palace itself was a magnificent and spacious building, round a square court, having the gate on the east side, and fortified by towers at the corners, and a dry ditch on the west and south, containing lofty halls, deep vaults, a chapel, stables, and other offices *. The remains of paintings, on a part of

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* Spynie Palace has been so often described by antiquarians, that it would be useless to recapitulate the subject at large. It may, however, be observed, that although there is no certainty when the palace was first founded, yet the bishopric was erected by MALCOLM CANMORE, anno 1057: and we are authorised to say, that GREGORY was appointed bishop here, in the year 1107, by the Cantuary of Drumferling, when King WILLIAM confirmed to that monastery the cell of Urquhart, in this neighbourhood, and renewed the privileges and gifts to this abbacy, made by MALCOLM, and the worthy ST. MARGARET his wife. King JAMES II. anno 1450, by his charter in the public records, refers also to the gifts made by that King's successors, DUNCAN, EDGAR, ETHELRED his brother, ALEXANDER, and SYBILLA his Queen, DAVID, MALCOLM, WILLIAM, and ROBERT BRUCE, successively. Hence we may infer, that the same King Malcolm Canmore erected this diocese, at this period, and the bishops occupied the church as a cathedral; and made their residence here, as well as at Birnie and King-edward, where they lived in Castles, which are still remaining in ruins. This church continued to be the domicil of the bishop till the Revolution: It stood where the cathedral was established, till the year 1224; when King ALEXANDER II's mandate authorised its translation to Elgin. It is dated the 10th year of his reign, and the deed is granted, *Apud Muskyllir: quinto die Julii*. The cathedral of Elgin was founded by ANDREW MURRAY, son of William Murray of Duffus. The Murrays of Duffus had the lands of Kintrae and Leggat, in this parish, from King DAVID I. along with the great estate of Duffus and Oglson. Of this great family are descended the Sutherlands, the Douglasses, and the Murrays, in the south.

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the walls, were so distinct, a few years ago, as to shew, that a landscape with trees, and several representations of scriptural history,

The boundaries of estates were early attended to. There was a distinct march, dividing Spynie and Findrassie from Kintrae and Quarrywood, by agreement, in 1226, between HUGH de Moravia, and his brother the bishop, and establishing the road to Sherriffmiln, Auchter Spynie, and Elgin, the march of property, declaring the muirs to the east neutral ground. The parish consisted of church lands and King's lands. Those of the church were *Spynie, Myreside, Bishopmiln, Murrayston, Burrowbrigs, Auchter-Spynie, and Auldrochty*. Those of the Crown were *Leggat, Kintrae, and Quarrywood, and Barony of Westfield*.

The earliest feu of the bishop is that of a stance for a miln upon Auchter Spynie, (Sherriffmiln,) in a donation of the said ANDREW, bishop of Murray, to WALTER of Duffus, his brother, anno 1237. As on this stance alone, a miln is built, a few rigs along with it, though 6 miles distant from the barony, continued the miln of that estate 500 years, and lately were purchased, from Mr Arthur Duff, by the proprietor of Duffus, whose grandfather sold them to Lord BRACO, in 1740. The lands themselves were feued before the year 1309, in favour of ADAM STEVEN, burgess of Elgin; and the said stance of a miln is there reserved. They were in the person of THOMAS URQUHART of Buidyards, in 1390. The lands of Auldrochty belonged to Robert Sibbald, in 1398. Findrassie was feued by the bishop to JOHN, *Dominus de Tolres*, and MARGARET his wife, anno 1378.

The remaining lands of the church continued with the bishop till the eve of the Reformation, when Bishop Hepburn made great havock. What of them were saved from his prodigal hands, with the feu duties and patronages, were granted by James VI. in favour of ALEXANDER LINDSAY, who was created LORD SPYNIE, and the bishopric erected into a temporal Lordship to him and his heirs and assignees, and to JEAN LYON, Countess of ANGUS, his wife.

This Alexander Lindsay, a brother of the Earl of CRAWFORD, was a great favourite of this Prince, who wrote him from Denmark, advising him to the marriage of Jean Lyon, in these words: 'Dear Sandy, marry her—your young *tout* will 'blast her old *horn*.'—About the year 1605, LORD SPYNIE disposed the bishopric to the Dunbars of Westfield, who afterwards sold it to the family of Grange.

BURROW-

history, had been the design *. Adjoining to it also were gardens, though of no great extent, now distinguishable only by

BURROWBRIGGS and MYRESIDE were feued out by Alexander Douglas bishop of Murray, in 1609, to his son, Alexander, and Mary Innes his wife, who was proprietor also of Spynie and Murrayston, and died provost of Banff, about 1669.

In this parish lived the Dunbars of Westfield, a family which flourished 400 years in Murray, and the different branches of which possessed a great part of the country. A century ago, there were 26 heritors in the shire, of whom only two now remain. Of the family of Westfield, and not of Mochrum, or Aimach, (as several authors narrate,) was GAVIN bishop of Aberdeen, son of ALEXANDER DUNBAR of Westfield, and Elizabeth Sutherland, daughter of William Sutherland of Duffus, and laird of Quarrywood and Leggat, in this parish. This Alexander should have been Earl of Murray in 1447, being the only son of James, Earl of Murray, and laird of Frendraught. The said Bishop was Lord Register in 1503; Bishop of Aberdeen in 1518, and built the bridge of Dee, which Bishop Elphinston began, and mortified the lands of Ardlair in Garioch, in 1529, to its support, under the management of the Provost, (Menzies,) and Council of Aberdeen. He endowed an hospital for 12 poor men at Old Aberdeen, and mortified 50 merks Sterling to two chaplains, payable out of the lands of Quarrywood and Leggat, in which he was infested; and the deed was confirmed by King JAMES V. proceeding on the said William Sutherland's contract to the Bishop, dated *Apud Quarrywood, die quinto mensis Augusti, 1529*, in which this remarkable condition is inserted: "*Provisi insuper, quod si contingat monetam regni Scotiæ, seu ejusvis alterius regni, in Scotia cursum habentem, ad ultimum præctium levare quam ut nunc in solutione capiunt, unde redditus ipse pater, aut heredes, seu assignati, seu quicunque pauperioris aut deterioris conditionis officientes, in eo casu oblige et astringe prædictas terras meas, de Quarrywood, et Leggat, possessionibus quibuscunque dicti annui redditus, ad solvendum pro qualibet Marca et viginti duabus denariis, unum unciam puri argenti quod creat ad minus ALEWYNE PENNY FYN, vel ejus verum valorem, in usuale Moneta Regni Scotiæ, pro quibus licebit ipsis possessoribus dicti annui redditus, ipsas terras, pro se aut suos officarios, aut factores, distringere et namare.*"—Instead therefore of 2l. 15s. 6½d. Sterling, the *reddendo* ought to be about 9l. 12s. Sterling.

* It is hardly possible to survey these ruins of ecclesiastical magnificence,

by the ruined walls, in which was the best fruit, said to be reared from plants of foreign countries. The whole precincts, which do not exceed 10 acres, are now the property of the Crown, and are let by the Court of Exchequer to the Earl of Fife, the adjoining heritor, at the rent of 12 l. Sterling.

Situation, Extent, Surface, Wood, Minerals, &c.—A great part of this parish lies pleasantly situated along the banks of the Liffie, within view of Elgin, including *Auchter-Spynie*, called also *Upper Haugh*, *Murrayston*, called, in 1378, *Middle Haugh*, (then feued by the Bishop to John Dallas, son of

magnificence, without reflecting upon the almost unlimited influence which the clergy, for a long period, possessed over the minds of men. In this enlightened age, we can hardly think, without indignation, of that spiritual bondage in which our ancestors were held; but, perhaps, a philosopher, in viewing the state of society in this country, during the times of Episcopacy, when the police was extremely imperfect, and the government too weak to enforce obedience to the laws, would consider the great ascendancy of Ecclesiastics to have been a happy circumstance for the people, seeing it was often exerted to prevent and to redress injuries from powerful laymen; and thus served to mitigate those evils, which could only be cured by the wisdom and energy of a better government.

Although no person, in the catalogue of the MORAY BISHOPS, made any conspicuous figure as a statesman, yet, both in the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches, they appear to have been men of very respectable characters, and to have possessed the regard and confidence of their respective contemporaries, having been often chosen as the arbitrators of their disputes. Several estates are still bounded according to the decrees arbitral of COLIN FALCONER, the last bishop who inhabited this palace, who died, anno 1686, much esteemed. The late PHILIP, and WILLIAM COMING of Craigmile, were at his burial, and heard often to say, that the whole country, *gentle and simple*, attended his funeral. Neither of his two successors, (ALBANY-ROSS and WILLIAM HAY,) had any personal residence in their official character.

of William Dallas of Strathardel,) and *Wester Haugh*, now called *Burrowbrigs*. From the eastern precincts of the palace, a ridge of moor stretches the whole length of the parish, nearly 4 miles, rising gradually towards the west into a pretty high hill, and clothed almost throughout its whole extent with thriving plantations of fir, interspersed with other forest trees. The medium breadth of the parish is nearly two miles. On the south side of the highest part of this ridge, about a mile westward from Elgin, on the post road to Forres, there is a large extent of very flourishing natural oak wood, the property of the Earl of Fife, who has inclosed it with a substantial stone wall, and keeps it properly thinned and clear of underwood, so that, when fully grown, its value must be very considerable. Under a thin stratum of moorish soil, the whole of this ridge seems to be a mass of excellent hard free stone; of which there is a quarry, near the summit of the hill, that supplies a large extent of country with mill-stones, and the town of Elgin and the neighbourhood with stones for building. When the intended BRIDGE OVER THE SPEY at Fochabers comes to be erected, it will, no doubt, occur to those concerned, that they can no where be supplied with better stones, or at a cheaper rate, than from the Earl of FIFE's quarry in this parish.

Soil, Climate, River, &c.—Upon each side of this ridge lies the whole of the cultivated land, in which almost every variety of soil is to be met with, from the heaviest clay to the lightest sand. The air is healthy, and, on the south side of the hill, peculiarly soft and warm, during a great proportion of the year: On the north side, the climate is not so pleasant, the soil being wet and cold, and the lake often emitting a very thick and disagreeable fog. These disadvantages do not, however, seem to have any bad effects upon

upon the health of the inhabitants, no disease being more prevalent here than in any other part of the country.—This parish is bounded on the S. throughout the greatest part of its length, by the river *Loffie*, excepting that opposite to the town of Elgin there is a fine field of about 40 acres, called *Brrough bridge*, which belongs to this parish, though on the south side of the river : The reason of this is, that the *Loffie* formerly run close by the town, as appears from the title deeds of the properties in the adjoining quarter of the burgh, which still bound them by the river, although this valuable field, the property of the Earl of FINDLATER, has been, from time immemorial, interjected between them. The reverse of this has happened a little lower down, in a small semicircular field, called *Dean's Crook*, which has been evidently cut off from the Cathedral lands of Elgin, by the river occupying the diameter instead of the periphery, which still remains a reedy pond.

Produce.—The productions of the parish are in no respect different from those of the country around. Grain, including pease and beans, is the article on which the tenants chiefly depend for the payment of their rents, and the purchase of the necessaries of life. On the larger farms, which are rented by gentlemen, turnips and sown grafs have their places in the rotation of crops ; but, on the smaller, none of the modern improvements in agriculture have yet been adopted *. Every farmer, however, raises hay, the soil being
very

* Thirty years ago, neither turnips nor potatoes were known in this parish, except a few in gardens. The principal farmers have now both in abundance in the open fields, and partake of the profits of these useful productions. Grafs seeds, such as rye-grafs and clover, were equally unknown 40 years ago. A few families of rank, in the neighbourhood, began to raise grafs ;
and

very productive, and the small possessor finds it his advantage, as one acre will produce 300 stones, when properly cultivated, which answers for the food of cattle in summer, and prevents their feeding them to the Highland Glens, 40 miles distance, which was their former practice, and still partly prevails. In this parish and the neighbourhood, within 4 miles of each other, there are 9 *pidgeon houses* well stored; a sign of the good grain of the parish, which, upon an average, weighs from 18 to 20 stones, per boll, of barley; 15 stone, per boll, of oats; and 16 stone, per boll, of wheat. The wheat is meal measure. That of the other grain exceeds the Linlithgow boll about a peck.

Cultivation, Farm Rents, &c.—The farm of Sherriffmilk, rented by JAMES WALKER, Esq; M. D. claims particular notice in an account of this kind. This gentleman, in the early part of his life, entered, with all the ardour of enthusiasm, into the horse-hoeing husbandry, on the plan of JETHRO TULL; in which he has ever since persevered with unfailing steadiness, raising crops of wheat, barley, and beans, in drills without a particle of dung, always following the intervals, (about 3 feet,) for each succeeding crop; and thus compleatly demonstrating the effect of cultivation without the use of *manure*. Although every operation has been performed with the nicest accuracy, and in its proper season, and though the soil of Sherriffmilk seems to be well calculated for this kind of husbandry, being light and sandy, yet the result has not been such as to encourage imitation. The corn is indeed superior in quality to any in the country; but the quantity by the acre *much less* than is raised in the broad-

and a gardener in Elgin, who had been bred in London, was employed to cut the grass, and oversee the hay, for the scythe was then little known, and could not be used.

broad-cast way, on the same kind of soil, well plowed and manured. The average rent, per acre, is about 15 s. the clay land letting at 1 l. the sandy soils at about 10 s. and those of the intermediate qualities from 14 s. to 17 s. the acre *. Although the clay land in general produces large crops, yet, on account of the additional expence which attends the management of it, it is not by many reckoned the most profitable; as the labour of this soil is often suspended for a great part of the winter, and in the beginning of spring, while all the necessary operations of that season are diligently prosecuted on the drier lands.

Improvements.

* In this parish, and generally in the whole parishes of the country, the land-lords drew a victual rent; and this practice continued till Lord Fife introduced a conversion at 12 and 12 s. 6 d. per boll. If the ancient rents were exacted, *ipsis corporibus*, it would be found, that, on the average value of grain, the present rents would not much exceed the rents established 170 or 200 years ago. For, by the valuation of teinds, anno 1629, Spynie, on the one end of the parish, is then rented at 108 bolls, and now pays the heritor, exclusive of the precinct or bishops part, 72 l. Sterling. The farm of Sherriffmûl, then rented at 50 bolls, now pays 48 l. In the vicinity of the town of Elgin, and in the other part of the parish, Kintrae was given up, anno 1629, at the yearly rent of 130 bolls of victual, and recently set by Lord Fife at 118 l. 14 s. of money, and 20 bolls of wheat. This, reckoned with the first quality of soil in the country, is about 20 s. per acre; which, estimating the value of a boll at 16 s. proves, that the present *reddendo* scarcely exceeds the ancient exaction; and likewise shows, whether the farmer has improved the method of cultivation, for he has no other source, but the prices of cattle, which, in the memory of man, have been tripled in value. If the case were otherwise, the tenant still could not pay, nor the land-lord receive, the stipulated rents exigible 170 years ago.—It also proves that victual, then valued at 5 l. Scotch the boll, has not been doubled, when every other article of life has been doubled, tripled, and quadrupled. Servants wages, in this parish, 40 years ago, were, for a ploughman, 10 l. Scotch half yearly, now 30 l.; and exceeding it in many parts of the country.

Improvements.—The industry of the farmer will often increase the value of a farm, where the sluggard will starve. A remarkable instance of this occurs in the improvement of the farm of Murrayston, which was possessed by Mr James Duncan, and held by 4 tenants, at the low rent of 70 bolls, in the year 1764, when they all became bankrupts. The landholder then adapted his conversion for 19 years to Mr Donaldson, who exerted much industry, and improved the farm greatly. On his resignation, Mr Duncan entered at an advanced rent of 10 l. He lives as comfortably as Mr Donaldson did; and now, besides the profits of his crop, by attention to the dairy alone, draws, for milk and butter, 150 l. yearly.—It may be observed, that the farm of Burrowbrigs was, 170 years ago, only rented at 18 bolls of victual*; but now it rents at 100 l. Sterling, owing to its vicinity to the burrow lands of Elgin. As a farther evidence of what the grounds, by proper cultivation, may produce, Mr Russell, the proprietor of Westfield, has let his estate in lots of from 20 to 40 acres, and built houses for the inhabitants, whereby he gets a rent of from 30 s. to 40 s. per acre. So

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that

* By the Sherriff Court records it appears, that the price of a boll of victual was 8 l. anno 1635, 6 l. 13 s. 4 d. in 1636, 7 l. in 1642, 6 l. in 1644, 12 l. in 1647, and 9 l. in 1649; and bear given in charity 10 l. per boll, that is, a peck to the boll; and 8 l. for the meal. Country cloth was 10 d. per ell; half a merk for a pair of hose; a merk for a pair of shoes; and 8 l. for the stone of wool, in 1649. A white horned wedder was sold for 2 l. Scots, and a young gimmer for the same; a cart of peats for 4 s.; 8 tups for a boll of household meal; a good horned cow for 18 l. Scotch; a grey horse to the Laird of Innes 20 dollars; salt 5 l. per boll; and a pound of onion seed for 4 l. A man servant's fee was 4 l. 3 s. 4 d. for the half year, in the year 1649; and in a process at the instance of Robert Guthrie in Speysla against Bessie Douglas, good wife of Lenchers, she is decreed in 20 merks for ilk boll of victual oats, that is, 5 firlots, (scarcely 6 firlots of Lialithgow measure,) crop 1649.

that this estate, bought some years ago at 6000 l. draws now more than 400 l. annually.

Cattle.—There are 201 horses and 560 black cattle in the parish, besides 14 large oxen, which go in pairs either in the plough or wain. Before the moor was planted, almost every tenant had a small flock of sheep; but now there are not above 200 sheep in the parish: And these are chiefly of a small white-faced breed, which has been in this country from time immemorial. There is little attention paid to the breeding or improvement of black cattle, except by a few of the gentlemen, who alone turn this branch of husbandry to any account.

Rent and Proprietors.—The valued rent is 3055 l. 3 s. 8 d. Scotch *, which is divided among 5 heritors, exclusive of the precinct of Spynie; belonging, as was said, to the Crown. Besides the farm of Spynie, the Earl of Fife holds all the lands in the north and west, except the estate of Westfield, the property of FRANCIS RUSSEL, Esq; of Blackhall, Advocate. The Earl of FINDLATER holds the lands of Burroughbridge, lying between the Loffie and the town of Elgin; as well as the lands of Greenhall, Myreside, and Bishopmiln, in the east, between Spynie and Elgin; JAMES MILN, Esq; having only the milns of Bishopmiln, with a small contiguous property. And the LESSLIES of Findraffie have long possessed that estate, on the side of the lake, between the properties of the two Earls.

Population.

* By the old valuation roll of this county, in the year 1667, the real rent is said to have been 198,217 l. 13 s. Scotch, (16,518 l. 2s. 9d. Sterling,) and the valued rent 66,072 l. 11s. 11d. Scotch.

Population.—The population seems to have decreased in the course of the last 30 years. Although there are no very large farms in the parish (there being only one that exceeds 100 acres), yet there are several, in which, within that period, one tenant has succeeded to 405. It is probable, that the population may be still a little farther diminished, as nearly one half of the parish consists of farms from 20 to 40 acres, which the proprietors may through time see proper to lay out in larger tenements.

The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 865 souls.

The number of souls at present is,

Males	-	-	-	289	
Females	-	-	-	313	
				<hr/>	602
			Decrease		<hr/> 263

Of these there are, of the Episcopal persuasion, 5 families, consisting of about 30 persons.
 The annual average of births *, for 7 years, is 12
 Ditto of marriages * - - - - 6

Manufactures.—The only manufactory of this parish is that erected by Mr John Ritchie, merchant in Elgin. In the eastmost part of this parish, on the river of Lossie, within a half mile of the town of Elgin, he has built on a feu belonging to him, a mill for the manufactory of tobacco, a waulk-mill, a flax mill, and bleaching machinery, which has brought to great perfection the bleaching of linens and thread; and he is, with great assiduity, giving every hope of bringing these useful and laudable inventions to perfection.

Fuel.

* These averages are taken from the parish register, from 1784 to 1790, inclusive, a period in which it appears to have been very exactly kept.

Fuel.—Coals may now be had at so moderate a price, and in a few years there will also be such abundance of wood, that it is hardly necessary to notice the present scarcity of fuel for domestic accommodation.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church and manse were most pleasantly situated at the eastern extremity, in the vicinity of the Castle, until the year 1736, when they were removed to *Quarrywood*, a more central, though more bleak situation, nearly under the highest part of the north side of the hill. Both are at present in pretty good repair; and the glebe and garden, consisting of about 6 acres, are both substantially inclosed with stone walls. The stipend, including 60 merks for communion elements, is 30 l. Sterling, and 64 bolls of bear.

Antiquities.—The remains of a Danish camp* are still very conspicuous on the hill of *Quarrywood*. It would appear that those Danes, who inhabited the burgh (*burges*) in this neighbourhood, had erected it as an asylum for their families. It commands a view of the whole county, and a pleasant prospect into the counties of Caithness, Sutherland, Ross, Inverness, Nairn, Banff, and Aberdeen. It is worthy of Lord Fyfe's notice, and becoming his taste, in beautifying the county, to renew this monument, and perpetuate its antiquity.

Advantages.

* Both FORDON and BUCHANAN give account of the Danes landing in Murray, about the year 1008, when Malcolm II. marched against them, fought, and was defeated at Forres. In the career of their success, they sent for their families, who enjoyed the land till they were repeatedly defeated at Gumerie in Banff-shire, and Cruden in Buchan, where the Danish camps are still to be seen.

Advantages.—One great advantage, which this parish in a peculiar manner enjoys, is the abundance of stone so well adapted both for building and inclosing; of which, however, the inhabitants have not yet availed themselves in any great degree. Besides this, no part of the parish is inconveniently distant from either of the harbours of Lossiemouth or Findhorn, or the markets of Elgin, to which last there is at all times an uninterrupted access by a handsome stone bridge, where the post-road to Forres crosses the Lossie, about the middle of the south side of the parish.

Language.—The language of the parish is the Scotch dialect. Some of the names of places are evidently Gaelic, such as *Kintrae*, *Insbagarty**, (*Innis-ant sbagairt*), the *Leggat*, (*an lag-fhad*), &c. And it is highly probable that many more of them are of Gaelic origin, though they are now corrupted or disguised so much, by having been so long in the mouths of Lowlanders, that it is hardly possible for a Highlander to recognize them for his native tongue.

Character, &c.—The people are industrious and frugal, possessing also other virtues, not so much the necessary consequence of their situation; being in general honest, benevolent and friendly, and entertaining a high respect for the ordinances of religion. The dress of the poorer tenants and day-labourers is of the cheapest kind, chiefly of home manufacture; that of the more substantial farmers, and their servants, is purchased from the shops of Elgin.

* The Priest's Island.

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