

NUMBER XXXVI.

PARISH OF GLENBERVIE.

(County of Kincardine—Presbytery of Fordoun—Synod of Angus and Mearns.)

By the Rev. Mr. ALEXANDE THOM, Minister.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THIS parish affords few materials for statistical investigation. It probably takes its name from its low situation, and vicinity to the water of Bervie, along the E. side of which it extends for nearly 3 miles. From N. to S. it is 6½ miles in length, and 5 miles in breadth from E. to W., containing about 10,990 Scotch, or 13,965 English acres.

Soil, Produce, Cultivation, and Climate, &c.—The soil, in the upper and northern part of the parish, is generally a wet bluish clay, and, in the lower, a light loam. The principal crops are oats, bear, pease, potatoes, clover and rye-grass. The crops are, in general, more than sufficient for the support

of the inhabitants *. The cultivation of turnips likewise engages the attention of the farmer now; and he always finds them a profitable crop, if properly managed. For the knowledge, however, of this, and indeed of improvements in general, this county and neighbourhood are principally, if not altogether, indebted to Mr. BARCLAY of Urie, whose exertions in agriculture have been very great, and attended with success. The climate here is rather cold than otherwise, but healthy; and the harvest is early or late according to the season, the nature of the soil, and the situation of the ground. There are 53 ploughs in the parish.

Population.—The number of inhabitants in this parish has increased above one fourth, within these 40 years, as will appear from the following

POPULATION TABLE of the Parish of GLENBERVIE.

No. of males, - - -	750	Under 10 years of age, -	277
----- females, - - -	557	Between 10 and 20, -	244
Total, - - - - -	1307	----- 20 - 30, -	228
No of souls in 1755, as returned to Dr. Webster, -	958	----- 30 and 40, -	193
		----- 40 - 50, -	115
Increase, - - - - -	349	----- 50 - 60, -	92
		----- 60 - 70, -	109
No. of Scotch Episcopalians, -	200	----- 70 - 80, -	46
----- Seceders, - - - -	1	----- 80 - 90, -	9
----- Roman Catholics, - -	1	----- 90 - 100, -	3

			1307
			Average

* In 1782, however, which was a very remarkable year here, the crop was very deficient, and the poor reduced to great distress. The ground did not produce so much grain as would have maintained the inhabitants 6 months. In that and the following year, the kirk-session were obliged to apply nearly 140*l*. Sterling of their funds, in purchasing white pease and barley, in order to preserve the poor from suffering by want, and to relieve the necessities of other inhabitants.

Average of births for the last 5 years*,	-	-	29	No. of square wrights,	-	8
Ditto of marriages,	-	-	10	----- tailors,	-	15
Ditto burials,	-	-	26	----- weavers,	-	23
No. of proprietors,	-	†	7	----- smiths,	-	5
----- farmers,	-	†	33	----- shoemakers,	-	17
----- cottagers, or subtenants,	160			----- flax-dressers,	-	8
----- mafons,	-	-	4	----- coopers,	-	4
				----- wheel-wrights,	-	§ 3

Rents and Leafes.—The valued rent is 3,336l. Scotch; the real or present rent about 1000l. Sterling, which could be nearly doubled, were the lands to be let immediately. But as many of the leafes are of an old date, the rents at present paid are low, and the industrious judicious tenant is in a thriving state. The tenants, especially on the lands belonging to Lord Monboddo, are in this agreeable situation. They hold their farms on easy, and, perhaps, peculiar terms; and, from this circumstance, and the countenance of his Lordship, they have the greatest encouragement to industry. Their leafes are, probably, of an uncommon nature; being, *a life, 19 years, and a life*: The possessor, during the 19 years, names the life with which the leafe ends.

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Church,

* No certain conclusion, as to the increase or decrease of the population, can be drawn from this average, as the register of baptisms is very imperfect. This, in a great degree, is owing to the carelessness of the parents about the registration of their childrens names, and their backwardness to pay the tax.

† Of these only 1 resides in the parish.

‡ In this number, those who have small pieces of ground, and *neighbour*, as they call it, *with others* in plowing, are not included.

§ In the above list of tradesmen, journeymen and apprentices are enumerated.

Church, School, and Poor.—The church was partly rebuilt in 1771, and is in good condition, but is ill contrived for the intended purpose, and too small for the congregation. Those of the Scotch Episcopal persuasion have a small meeting house for public worship. The manse was built about 70 years ago, and has been three times repaired. The stipend was augmented last year, and is now 56 bolls of meal, 32 bolls of bear, and 43*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* in money, including 5*l.* for communion elements. The glebe is a little above the legal size. Mrs. Helen Milne Nicolson of Glenbervy is patron. There is a parochial schoolmaster, a new school-house, and a dwelling-house for the master. The school fees, for teaching English and writing, are 1*s.* 6*d.*; for arithmetic, 2*s.*; and, for Latin, 2*s.* 6*d.* The number of scholars are about 40, at a medium. The salary is about 200 merks Scotch. The number of weekly pensioners may be reckoned, at an average, about 5 or 6, besides many others, who receive occasional, and often considerable supply. The fund for their support and relief arises from the interest of 236*l.* Sterling, saved mostly out of former collections, the weekly collections on Sunday (about 8*s.* at an average), mortcloths, proclamation money, and the rents of a few seats in the church.

Horses, Sheep, &c.—There are about 161 draught horses, which may be valued at 12*l.* Sterling each, one with another, and a considerable number of black cattle, but few sheep, in comparison of the number that might be reared, and kept on the hills belonging to the parish. Mr. Duff of Fetteresso has a small estate in this parish, called *Morgie*, that would maintain 1500 black-faced sheep, which, when fully fed, would sell at 1*l.* 5*s.* each. Perhaps the new mode of farming is
against

against the increase of the number of this very useful animal.

Village.—DRUMLITHIE is a small village in the parish, lying on the side of the road from Laurence-kirk to Stonehaven. It is inhabited chiefly by trades people, such as weavers, shoemakers, &c. In this village there is a public house, which is the only one in the parish.

Antiquities.—There are no antiquities in this parish, excepting an erect stone in the E. end of the church, and a stone chest *, which stands directly above the vault, wherein
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* The following are the inscriptions on the stone :—“ Hic jacent, in spe
“ bonæ resurrectionis, Glenbervii Comarchi, infra designati, et secundum cog-
“ nomina singulis classibus divisi, ab anno 730 ”——“ Hugo Hassa, Germanus,
“ illinc huc perigrinatus, ubi præclaris meritis postquam insignis apparuisset,
“ Germunda Dervies, Glenbervii heretrice nupta, sub hoc primum tumulo cum
“ conjuge, liberisque suis obdormit. Horum posterii continuerunt in annum
“ 1004 ”——“ Helena ultima Hassarum soboles.”——“ Duncanus Oliphantes,
“ Mernii Decurio, interfectis Donaldo et Waltero Hassæis, fratribus prædictæ
“ Helenæ, clara pugna a campo in Barry expulsando Danos, Helenæ heretrice
“ nuptus, Glenbervio succedit, gignitque heredem Walterum, filiamque Mar-
“ garetam, cum agris, nunc *Arbutnott* designatis. Ortus inde est Robertus, et
“ prefente vicecomes, secundus de eodem nomine princeps.”——“ Walterus
“ duxit uxorem Matildam Sinelli Angusiæ thanatisiam. Osbertus, horum fili-
“ us, Ægidiam Hay, Arrollii filiam, militiæ studens, cum Godfredo Bulionio
“ in Syriam perrexit, relicta filia unigenita heretrice, in prælio occisus. Nuptæ
“ 1057, Jacobo Malvill, Hungaria nobili orto, cui peperit filium Hugonem, ma-
“ trimonio Gerardi Macpendarii, Mernu thani, filie, datum. Horum posterii
“ continuerunt in annum 1440.”——“ Militi, filio secundo Archibaldi Comitis
“ Angusiæ, vulgo *Bell-the-Cat*, Gulielmo Duglasio, a Bredwood, Jacobum pat-
“ rem heretrice a Glenbervy, nuptæ, Elisabeta Malvil, nupta Johanni Affleæ,
“ de eodem peperit.”

Inscription on the head of the chest :

“ Hic jacet vir illustrissimus, Gulielmus Duglasius, Angusiæ comes, primus
“ Glenbervii

the family, who were formerly proprietors of Glenbervie, are buried; and which, from the inscriptions they contain, may be considered as such.

“ Glenbervii comarchus, qui dicto comitatu hereditario jure successit: Obiit
 “ kalend. Julii, anno Salutis, 1591; ætatis suæ 59 ”——“ Hic jacet illustrissima
 “ fœmina, Domina Ægidia Graham, præfati comitis uxor, quæ cum 40 annis
 “ cum ipso conjunctissime vixisset, ac vidua marito et sibi, hoc monumentum
 “ posuisset. Obiit—anno ætatis—Die, anno Domini.”

NUM.