NUMBER XVIII.

UNITED PARISHES OF GLENMUICK, TULLOCH, AND GLENGAIRN.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF KINCARDINE O'NEIL.)

By the Rev. Mr. GEORGE BROWN.

Situation, Heritors, Extent, Surface, &c.

THESE united parishes are about 40 statute miles W. of Aberdeen, which is the nearest post town. The heritors are the Earl of Aboyne, the sole patron, James Farquharson, Esq of Invercauld, William Farquharson, Esq. of Monaltree, Charles Gordon, Esq. of Abergeldie, William Macdonald, Esq of St Martin's, Captain John Macdonald of Gairnsdale, and John Erskine, Esq of Achalatar. Mr. Gordon of Abergeldie, and Captain Macdonald, are the only residing heritors. These parishes form a very irregular figure, and are about 18 miles in length, and 15 in breadth, and are intersected by the Dee, a large and rapid river, abounding with

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with salmon, and trouts of different kinds The country is mountainous, and, in the upper parts, very stormy in winter.

Agriculture, &c.—The soil, in general, is hot and shallow, but produces good grain, though proportionably little fodder. Sowing begins about the middle or end of March, and reaping about the middle or end of August, except in the upper parts of the parishes, where the soil is cold and wet, and there seed-time and harvest may be 2 or 3 weeks later. The crops are bear, oats, rye, pease, potatoes, and small quantities of flax. The arable ground bears but a small proportion to the surrounding mountains, which afford excellent pasture for sheep; and the people have hitherto paid much more attention to their flocks than to their farms. Agriculture may be said to be only in its infancy here; but it is capable of very great improvements. And if the inhabitants would adopt and persevere in that spirit of industry which is beginning to appear among a few of them, I have not the least doubt but that, in a few years, they would be independent of other countries for grain. Several things, indeed, are against them; their country is open, and winter-herding is not known, or, at least, it is looked upon as an intolerable grievance, and therefore not practised; many of them have no leases on their possessions, and the others but short ones: and, which perhaps is worst of all, being accustomed from their infancy to a pastoral life, they contract a habit of indolence incompatible with a good farmer. From the time that harvest is over, which is generally about the middle of October, they neither yoke a plough, nor do any thing about their farms till the seed time comes on, when man, woman, and child are employed in huddling over the work in the most superficial manner. And when the bustle of sowing is over, all concern about the farm is again

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again laid aſide till harveſt begins. I ſpeak this in general; there are a few excepted who pay more attention, and whoſe farms make them very grateful returns. Their farms, or rather crofts, are by far too ſmall, few of them exceed 12, and, in general, they are from 5 to 8 acres. It occurs to me, that the beſt means for improving the country, and exciting a ſpirit of induſtry among the people, would be to annex 2 or 3 farms together, and to have none under 20 or 30 acres, to grant leaſes of 19 years at leaſt, to give the tenant encouragement to encloſe, and trench balks, &c. and even to give him for ſome time a ſmall premium for the acre of good turnips, or hay raiſed after turnips. This would have a tendency to raiſe a ſpirit of emulation, which would turn to the advantage both of the proprietor and tenant. By managing their ground in this way, the face of the country would be improved, a ſufficiency of grain raiſed, and the flocks better ſupported in ſtorm than they are at preſent. For one acre of hay or turnips would go farther in that way, than all the fodder that grows upon ſome of their ſmall farms by the preſent management. I am aware of one objection againſt reducing the number of farms, and that is, that it would reduce the number of inhabitants alſo. This, no doubt, in ſome degree, might be the caſe: but if every tenant ſhould be allowed 3 or 4 ſubtenants, who might be uſefully employed about the farm, or in looking after the flocks, the decreaſe of population would be very little, if any at all. But I leave it to thoſe who are more intereſted to determine, whether it be better to allow the country to remain in its preſent unimproved ſtate, and to foſter the indolence of the people, or to lead them on by induſtry to improve the country, and their own circumſtances.

Mr. Gordon of Abergeldie's farm of Birkhall is an inſtance of what the ground in this country is capable of producing,

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when properly managed. He took this farm, which consists of nearly 100 acres arable, and about the same number of pasture among natural wood, into his own hands only a few years ago; he enclosed and subdivided it with stone-fences and hedges, levelled and straighted the fields; trenched up balks, and drained marshes; and now raises from it bear, oats, pease, potatoes, turnips and hay, of as good quality as any in Aberdeenshire. The acre, after turnips, yields at an average, 8 bolls of bear, and the whole of the farm, under crop, gives the 6th return. His garden produces as early, and well flavoured fruit as any in the N. of Scotland; apples, pears, plumbs, cherries, gooseberries, &c.—And while Mr. Gordon farms to advantage, he has not lost sight of neatness and elegance; he has cleared away the rubbish of nature about his villa, and displayed her beauties, which are many, to the best advantage. But the example of Mr. Gordon, or of any gentleman, will never be attended with any good consequences to the tenants; they look upon all that he has done as the sole effect of money, and far beyond their reach. And until some active enterprising genius among themselves steps forward and sets the example, they will never go out of the old track; and this cannot be expected till they get leases upon their possessions. But if ever they shall be brought to pay more attention to their ground, I am certain a regard to their own interest will make them persevere; for the climate is temperate, and the soil, though thin, is early and fertile. But while I accuse the men of indolence, I should do great injustice to the women, if I did exempt them from the charge; by whose industry and diligence their families are in a great measure supported. Their chief employment is spinning flax, sent up by some manufacturers from Aberdeen, which brings a great deal of money into the country. During the summer months, many

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ny of them manufacture their own wool into coarse blue, or tartan webs, which sell at 2 s., or 2 s. 6 d. the ell.

Manners, &c.—The people are honest, economical, sober, contented, and hospitable; very regular in attending upon divine worship, and warmly attached to their country; their language is English, except in the upper parts of the parishes of Tulloch and Glengairn, where some of them use a barbarous dialect of the Gaelic among themselves, but they all understand the English. Their size, in general, is from 5 feet 5 inches, to 5 feet 8 inches high; they are stout made, healthy, and capable of great fatigue. Fevers of different kinds prevail sometimes; but there is no disease peculiar to the country. The air is pure and dry, and reckoned very wholesome: and yet there is only one instance of extreme old age remembered here. A John Mitchell, aged 124, born in the parish of Glenmuick in 1598, and died in 1722; the date of his birth and death is still very legible on his tomb-stone. The fuel used here is peats and turfs from the adjacent hills; they are both good of their kinds, but attended with great expense, as they lie at the back of very steep mountains.

Population, &c.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the number of souls then, was 2270. At present the population, &c. is as follows:

Population,	-	2117	Papists,	- -	354
Protestants,	-	1763	Males *,	- -	965

 Females,

* That the number of males should be so much less than that of the females, is owing to many of the young men going to the South and Low Countries to service, because they cannot get employment at home.

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Females, - -	1152
Infants below 10 years of age, -	279
Families, -	476
Persons, at an average, in a family, nearly -	5
Births, at an average, for 23 years, -	34
Marriages, at an average, for 16 years, -	14
Bachelors above 50 years,	14
Unmarried women above 45, - -	56
Persons above 50, -	283
Above 70, -	71
Above 80, -	29
Above 90, - -	2
Above 100 *. -	1
Widows, - -	70
Widowers, -	43
Men servants, -	63
Maid servants, -	87
Masons, - -	4
Square wrights, -	16
Millers, - -	8
Tailors, - -	15
Weavers, - -	18
Shoemakers, - -	4
Blacksmiths, - -	7
Merchants, - -	9
Schoolmasters, -	3
Children and young people learning reading, writing, and arithmetic,	236
Taverns, - -	8
Black cattle, -	1563
Horses †, -	716
Sheep, -	13,263
Ploughs yoked, -	208
Carts, - -	61
Carriage, - -	1
Bolls of oats sown, -	971
Bear, - -	407
Potatoes planted, -	61
Acres under turnips in the field, -	8

	L.	sh.	d.
Men servants wages for the year,	6	0	0
Womens ditto, -	3	0	0
A day-labourer, with his victuals, -	0	0	6
Do. without victuals,	0	0	9

A woman

* This old woman said to be 102, died lately, since the table was made out.

† The generality of the horses here, are of the small Highland breed, very hardy, and easily supported. There are some of the tenants who keep better horses; and Abergeldie's are valued at from 18l. to 30l. Sterling each; but none of these are included in the above valuation.

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	L.	sh.	d.		L.	sh.	d.
A woman makes for spinning flax a-week, -	0	3	0	Value of best sheep,	0	14	0
Meal the boll, at an average, -	0	15	0	Ordinary ditto,	0	7	6
				Worst ditto, -	0	3	4
				Cattle, at an average,	3	10	0
				Horses, at an average,	5	0	0

	B.	F.	P.		B.	F.	P.
Produce of oats, the boll, -	3	0	0	Produce of bear, the boll, -	4	2	0

Valued rent of the three parishes, 3384 l. 16 s. 8 d. Scots money.

Poor, &c.—The poors funds here, are the interest of 160 l. mortified money, which is lent out at 5 per cent., the weekly collections, and an annual donation from Invercauld, of from 10 l. to 12 l. Sterling. From which 93 poor receive aid. A Mrs. Elizabeth Farquharson, late of Jamaica, and a native of the parish of Tulloch, bequeathed at her death, which happened between 20 and 30 years since, 400 l. Sterling for the benefit of the poor here, and the like sum to keep a school and schoolmaster in these parishes. There were 4 trustees appointed to execute this part of her will; but somehow or other it was neglected for upwards of 20 years, when at last one of the trustees who had friends in Jamaica, recovered the 400 l. of principal, and 200 l. of interest; and the 600 l. have now been in the bank at Aberdeen for several years; but the parishes have as yet received no benefit from them. It surely could not have been the intention of the testator, that the money should be so long in being applied to the purposes it was designed for.

Glenmuick

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Glenmuick Parish.—Glean muc, are two Gaelic words, which signify the "Sow's Valley," from which it should seem, that that animal had some time run wild here, as none are now kept by the inhabitan s. This parish is about 15 miles in length, and lies entirely on the S. side of Dee. The present manse and glebe stand in this parish on the N. bank of the small river Muick, about 200 yards from its junction with the Dee. The manse is an old house, small, but in tolerable repair. The glebe, by a late addition, contains 6½ acres. The stipend, including the small tithes of the parish of Tulloch, is 67 l. 12 s. Sterling, all in money. The church of Glenmuick stands close by the manse. It is a very old house thatched with heath. It seems to have been dedicated to the Virgin Mary, from an annual meeting of the inhabitants on Candlemas day. There is a parochial school here, with a salary of 100 merks in money. The small river Muick takes its rise in the Grampian hills, from a large lake or loch of the same name, S. W. of the church, and after forming a large water-fall, called the Lin of Muick, is lost in the Dee, after a course of 10 miles. Across the Muick, and near the church, there is a very useful and substantial stone bridge of one arch, built about 50 years ago by subscription, and about half a mile below the church, a beautiful bridge of three large arches; and a small one at each end, called the Bridge of Ballatar, was lately built by subscription, and other contributions, under the patronage of the late Francis Farquharson, Esq. of Monaltrie; a gentleman who has left many lasting monuments of his public spirit in this country. In this parish are the celebrated wells of Pananich, on the N. side of a hill of the same name, about 2 miles E. of the church *. They

* They were discovered accidentally to be of use, about 33 years since, by an old woman living in the neighbourhood, who had for many years been distressed

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They are a mineral of a very agreeable taſte, light water, and allowed to be of uſe in gravelish, ſcorbutic, and ſcrofulous complaints. The wells being the property of the gentleman, already mentioned (Mr. Farquharſon) he cleared out the ſprings, which are three, and covered them; and erected not only ſeveral houſes upon the ſpot for the accommodation of the water drinkers, as a public and private bath, an octagon for the better ſort to retire to, and ſeveral houſes for ſheltering the poor; but alſo built a large and commodious houſe called Pananich Lodge, pleaſantly ſituated upon the banks of the Dee, about a mile W. of the wells, containing a large public room, and a number of private ones, with accommodation for ſervants and horſes, which, with a tolerable farm, and the houſes at the wells, is let to a landlady at 50 l. yearly, who has the good fortune to give univerſal ſatisfaction to the company who viſit her. Mr. Farquharſon likewiſe made out good roads on both ſides of the wells to the public road: nor did he confine himſelf to this ſpot; he paid particular attention to the roads wherever he had the leaſt concern; he made new, repaired old ones, and threw ſtone arches over ſeveral ſmall, but rapid rivulets, which, when flooded, were often impaſſable, at his own private expenſe. In a word, poſſeſſed

treſſed with ſcrofulous ſores; and who, after being reduced almoſt to the laſt ſtage of weakneſs and decrepitude, took a fancy (for ſhe had no expectations of a cure) to crawl upon her crutches every good day to the wells, which were then a bog remarkable only for the blueiſh ſcum on the ſurface of the water; here ſhe bathed her ſores, and laid rags dipped in the water upon them; and perſevering in this courſe for ſome time, ſhe was agreeably ſurpriſed to ſee her ſores heal up, and to find her health and ſtrength return. This brought the wells into immediate repute. And the country people abſurdly imagined that they were an infallible cure for every diſorder, and perſons under all complaints crowded to them; fatal experience, however, ſoon taught them that they were hoſtile to conſumptive habits.

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possessed of an ample fortune and generous mind, he employed both in improving his country *.

Tulloch Parish.—Tulloch is a corruption of *Tulach*, a Gaelic word, signifying "rising grounds or hillocks;" and is very descriptive of the small village of Tulloch, which gives name to the church and parish. The church is said to have been founded by St. Nethalen, and an annual meeting of the inhabitants is regularly kept on the 8th of January, in honour of his memory. It is termed the Mother Church, and stands (as the whole parish does) on the N. side of Dee, about 2 miles N. E. of the church of Glenmuick. This parish is the most populous and extensive of the 3, and by a list of the religious houses in Scotland, seems to have belonged in whole, or in part, to the Knights Templar. It is 18 miles in length from E. to W., and intersected at the Crags of Ballatar, by the parish of Glengairn, which divides the lower parts of Tulloch from the upper. It does not appear that there has been any settled minister, particularly in this parish, since the last Popish Priest, of the name of Sandison, who is said to have conformed at the Reformation, and afterward married: some of his posterity are still in the neighbourhood. The glebe and toft of the manse are still pointed out; but the minister now has no benefit from either. In the lower end of this

* *Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are two ruins in this parish, the one stands about a mile N. W. of the church called the Castle of the Cnoe, a Gaelic word, signifying a hill upon the top of which the ruin stands. It belongs to Mr. Gordon of Abergeldie, and is of a very old date. The other stands in the E. extremity of the parish called Dee Castle, formerly Candacori, the Head of the Wood, said to be built by the family of Gordon, and now the property of the Earl of Aboyne. There is a birch tree growing in a room of the ruin where the first Marquis of Huntly is said to have been born. It is said, that there is a rock of coarse marble in the hill above Pananich Lodge, and another above Birkhall.

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this parish, and at the foot of the hill of Culblean, there is a beautiful lake of about 3 miles in circumference, called Loch Cannor, containing several small islands, upon the largest of which, there stood formerly a small fortress, said to have been built, and occasionally occupied as a hunting seat by Malcolm Canmore; from whom, it is not improbable, the lake might have got its name; as Cannor is not far in sound from Canmore. In this fortress, many of the Cumings took shelter after their defeat in the famous battle of Culblean, fought between them and the troops of King David Bruce in 1335. There is now no appearance of the fortress, the stones are all cleared out and thrown into the surrounding lake; and the island, which measures near an acre, is under culture. The people in the neighbourhood, some years since, were in use to drag up large planks of oak from the bottom of that part of the lake between the island and main land on the N. side, evidently part of a draw-bridge which connected the island with the land; the wood was perfectly fresh and wholesome; and upon one of the planks there was this date, 1113, which is now in the possession of a gentleman in this neighbourhood. There is another island smaller than the former, and at some distance from it, which tradition says, was the prison of the castle, and which goes to this day by the name of the Tolbooth. The principal island where the fortress or castle stood, is about 60 or 70 yards distant from the land; and the water between them, where the draw-bridge was, is 16 feet deep. The lake abounds with pike and eels. Wild ducks, wild geese, and sometimes swans, frequent it in winter. There is a stone set on its end on the N. bank of the lake fronting the castle, with a great deal of carving upon it; but the figures are now unintelligible. It is told, that it was put up in memory of some of the Cumings who fell in the chase or battle

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of Culblean, and as the Earl of Athole fell that day, it may have been here *.

Glengairn Parish.—Glengairn is a corruption of 3 Gaelic words, *glean*, "a valley or hollow," and *garbh ambain*, "the rough water," which are very properly applied to the water of Gairn, the channel of which, in many places is exceedingly rocky. The church stands on the N. side of Dee, and at the influx of the Gairn into that river about 2 miles W. of Tulloch, and nearly the same distance N. of the church of Glenmuick. This church seems to have been dedicated to St. Mungo, from an annual meeting of the parishioners on the 13th of January. Some say, that this was a separate charge about the middle of the last century, when a Mr. Alexander Gordon, a proprietor in the parish, was minister; but neither the glebe, nor where the manse stood, can now be pointed out. This parish is the least, and most compact of the 3. The greatest part of it lies upon both banks of the Gairn, extending 6 miles N. W. of the church, where the upper parts of Tulloch begin and separate it from the parish of Crathie. A small part of it lies on the S. side of Dee, called

* In the fore mentioned hill of Culblean, there is a most remarkable hollow rock, which, from its shape, bears the name of the Vatt, and through which a rivulet runs. In going up to visit this natural curiosity, a stranger is much struck with the narrowness of the entry to the Vatt (being less than an ordinary door) and the large spacious area, in which he immediately finds himself enclosed by rocks from 50 to 60 feet high, and from the fissures of which tall and healthy birch trees are growing. There is one particular cleft of the rock which the eagle generally occupies as a safe and secure asylum for hatching and nourishing her young, and where her nest is always to be seen. The rivulet falls down at the upper end through broken shattered rocks, and when flooded, adds greatly to the picturesque appearance of the whole. The most remarkable hill in this, or the 3 parishes, is Morven, which in Gaelic signifies a large hill; and the well known crags or Pass of Ballatar, where the tremendous impending rocks threaten the astonished traveller with immediate destruction.

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ed Strathgirnie. There are 2 of the Society's ſchools in this pariſh, and are an unſpeakable advantage to the people. I am told that 60 or 70 years ago, it was rare to find one in all theſe three pariſhes who could read. But now all the young people read diſtinctly, and underſtand the principles of religion; and many of the young men leave ſchool, and immediately enter as clerks to commercial companies in different corners of the world. And it is but juſt to obſerve, that much of this is owing to the labours of Mr. George Thomſon, who has ſerved the Society about 50 years, during which time he has taught, with the greateſt honour to himſelf, and advantage to his pupils. The people, in general, have got a taſte for education, and as the pariſhes are extenſive, they engage young men to teach in the winter ſeaſon in thoſe places which are at a diſtance from the eſtabliſhed ſchools. Three young men, engaged by the people, taught in different corners this laſt winter.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—At the church of Glengairn, there is a very old ſtone bridge of one arch over Gairn, and there is another over the ſame river at the N. W. extremity of the pariſh, and 6 miles from the former, built by Government upon one of the Highland roads; both are in good repair. There is another of one arch over the burn of Girnie, built a few years ſince by ſubſcription. There is a river in the lower end of this pariſh, near the Paſs of Ballatar, called the Caſtle of Glengairn. It belonged to the family of Forbes, and was uſed as a hunting ſeat. It is now the property of the Earl of Aboyne.—A Popiſh Prieſt reſides in this pariſh, and performs divine worſhip every 2d Sunday, in a chapel built for the purpoſe.—It is believed there is a lead-mine near the caſtle of Glengairn; many pieces of lead have been found; but from the expenſe of working it, no exer-

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tions have been made to find out the vein of the metal. There is plenty of lime-stone in this and the other two parishes; but from the difficulty of getting fuel, there is not much of it burnt. The mountains in the 3 parishes are all covered with heath, and the bottoms of many of them beautifully fringed with natural wood and plantations. Plots of natural birch, oak, ash, alder, &c. are interspersed among the arable fields; which, with the rivers, give the country a very pleasant appearance in summer. The hills afford plenty of moor game, particularly Morven, upon the highest grounds of which, ptarmagans are always to be found *.

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* The most remarkable of the other wild creatures, are red and roe deer, foxes, badgers, wild cats, polecats, martins, weasels, otters, white and grey hares; eagles and lesser hawks; the black cock, wood cock, wood pecker, plovers, partridges, &c. with a great variety of singing birds.

The charge is served by the minister, and a missionary minister, who has a salary of 25 l. from the Committee on the Royal Bounty. And, besides the 3 churches, there is another place of worship at the upper bridge of Garn, where the missionary is appointed by the Committee to preach every 2d Sabbath; and by these means there can be sermon but once in the 2 weeks in each of the places of worship, which is very much complained of by the people. But, as a central church would remove this grievance, so no place can be better adapted for one; for the 3 churches immediately form nearly an equilateral triangle of 2 miles each side; and if a large house should be built near the middle of this angle, the bulk of the 3 parishes would be accommodated with sermon every Sabbath, and the missionary would preach in the remote corners. This plan has been long in the view of the heritors; and, as 2 of the churches are going fast into disrepair, it is to be hoped they will soon carry it into execution

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