

NUMBER XXV.

PARISH OF REDGORTON

(COUNTY OF PERTH, PRESBYTERY OF PERTH, SYNOD
OF PERTH AND STIRLING.)

By the Rev. MR DAVID MONCRIEFF.

Origin of the Name.

THE name of this parish is wrote differently Redgoretown, contracted Redgorton, Rogertown, and Regorton. The first seems to be the most ancient ; and, according to vulgar tradition, is derived from the battle of Loncarty, at which time, many of the wounded were brought to the curate's house, which from thence was called Redgoretown, or the town of the red-gore, and afterwards gave that name to the whole parish. Rogertown is derived probably from the name of a family, Rogers, now entirely extinct ; the name itself is now become obsolete. The other name Regorton, is Gaelic, and, as I am informed, signifies in that language a field of corn.

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Extent.

Extent.—It is about 6 miles long, reckoning from Craigingall, the Westmost point, to Safelanding, the Eastmost, and at a medium near 2 miles broad. There is a small part of the parish disjoined from the rest, which is about 6 miles distant from the church, running along the foot of the Grampian Mountains, and intersected by a neighbouring parish. The lower part of the parish extends itself in an irregular figure, running along the rivers Tay and Almond.

It is bounded on the South by the parish of Tippermuir, on the West by Methven, on the North by Moneidy and Aughtergaven, and on the East by Scone.

Situation, Soil, and Air.—The country here is rather hilly, but the high grounds are neither very elevated nor steep, but rise and fall gradually towards the rivers, where the land is flat, and in many places can be watered by the adjacent rivers.

The soil is generally light, though in some places there is a mixture of clay and black earth; and, where it is drained, and the large muir-stones, found here and there, either taken out, or sunk below the depth of the plough, the land is abundantly fertile.

The situation of this parish being more elevated than some of the neighbouring, the air is pure and healthy. The most prevalent distemper is the ague, which, however, is seldom mortal, and seems almost confined to the places nearest the rivers, and to those who are employed in the public works there.

Rivers.—The river Tay runs along the East side of the parish, Almond on the South and West, and Shochie and Ordie on the West. All the rivers in this part of the country

try discharge themselves into the Tay, which is the largest river in Scotland; and, when joined by the Earn, below Perth, is supposed to contain more fresh water than the Thames. There is a small lake in the disjoined part of this parish, remarkable for its depth in proportion to its surface, which produces large trout of a blackish colour, from one to two pound weight, and upwards. The river Tay, in this neighbourhood, abounds with salmon, from sixteen to twenty pound weight, at a medium; sea, or white trout, from one to four pound; bull trout from one to thirty pounds; a yellow trout from two pounds and downwards, and a few pike and eels. There is also to be found here a small sea trout, called the *Lammas whiting*, from a quarter to half a pound weight, of exquisite taste. It is so called, from its coming up from the sea at this season. The salmon and bull trouts are caught with nets, though there is excellent rod-fishing, or angling in Tay, as well as in the other three rivers, though in these there are no salmon but in the spawning season. The salmon fishings let to tacksmen, amount to about 150*l.* annually. The salmon is one of the staples in this country, and is generally sent to the London market, or up the Mediterranean. When sold here, they bring in Spring 9*d.* a pound, and 5*d.* in Summer; though, till within these 30 years, they were sold at 2*d.* per pound, and were so very plentiful, (the export trade being not then known) that in Perth and the neighbourhood, the servants made an article at hiring time, that they should not get it above twice a-week.

Antiquities.—It was in this parish that the famous battle of Loncarty was fought, at the end of the 10th century, under the reign of Kenneth III. betwixt the Scots and the Danes; which was so decisive, that of the enemy engaged in
battle,

battle, according to tradition, those who escaped the sword were drowned in the river, which was then swelled by the rains, and overflowed its banks.*

* It was for their gallant behaviour at this memorable battle, that the family of the Hays were enobled, under the name of Hay of Errol, and had for their arms, *argent, three escutcheons, gules, with the yoke and bow inscribed.* The common report is supported by the testimony of Hector Boetius, and Buchanan, that, on the first onset, our countrymen gave way, and were pursued by the victorious Danes through the adjacent fields. This being observed by a farmer of the name of Hay, or Haia, and his two sons, who were plowing in the adjacent fields, they took the yokes and bows of their ploughs, crossed the river Tay, and, thus accoutred, having taken a stand at a narrow pass, stopped their fugitive countrymen, rallied them, renewed the battle, drove the Danes into the river, and those that were not drowned, were cut to pieces. After this great slaughter, the King went with these three valiant Heroes in triumphant procession into the town of Perth; and next day holding an assembly of the States, at Scone, it was decreed to give the venerable old Champion the choice of the hounds chase, or the falcons flight, as a possession suitable to the honours conferred on him; and, carrying him up to Kinnoul Hills, where the Danish camp had lately been, that he might have a prospect of the fine country lying below, great part of which was to be his inheritance, he made choice of the Falcon's flight. The bird took its flight from the top of one of these hills, and it alighted on a stone by the river of Tay, a mile to the south of the house of Errol, where it stands at this day, and is still called the *falcon's, or baruk's stone.* All the intermediate lands were given in property to this family, but have since been parcelled out to different branches, and have been sold to others; unless that part of the estate, which is still held by Hay of Leys, one of the eldest cadets of this noble family. The country people still show the ridges of where the brave Hay and his son were ploughing when they joined the battle, and they were distinguished from the rest of the field by small stripes of grass, or baulks, on each side, which no farmer ever dared to break up till within these three years. They still, also, show you the narrow pass, where the Hays rallied their flying countrymen, which is now levelled down. I have seen it entire, when it much resembled the small Roman stations, which are to be seen in many places of Scotland, though not so regular. They point out the *turn again hillocks*, where the Danes began to retreat, and the hollow way, under cover of which the Clans surrounded the Danes. I have seen a great number



Modern History and Improvements.—The modern history of this parish, will appear to the Statesman, to be much more useful than a minute account of its antiquities.

Cromwell

number of tumuli, or burrows, scattered over the field of battle, where the dead were buried, not raised in any regular order, or in one place, but where ever the slain fell in the greatest numbers; but they are now almost levelled with the rest of the ground. I have seen many of them opened, and the light ashes found there in great quantities, evince the nature of their contents. Some of the bones have been dug out quite entire, particularly a large human skull, the jaw-bone and teeth being entire, in the presence of the late Dr Boswell, who lodged it in the Edinburgh Museum. In these, and through the whole field, which may contain near three hundred Scotch acres, there have been found hilts and blades of swords, spears, and bits of bridles.—Some of these were in the possession of the neighbouring gentlemen, and there is a house carpenter, who made of them planes, saws, and tools of husbandry. The field of battle, till of late, was grown over with heath and brushwood, but is now cultivated, and become a rich field of corn, so that, in a literal sense, “the swords have been beat into plough shares, their spears into pruning hooks, and the desert land has become a fruitful field.” These, and many other circumstances, too minute to relate, were told, and pointed out to me, with as much enthusiasm, especially by an old man of the name of Blair, whose ancestors had been long proprietors in the neighbourhood, as if they had happened in his own time. The only remains of the famous battle now to be seen, the last of the tumuli being levelled two years ago, are the graves where the Danish General and Officers were buried, at the head of which there are large stones still standing, and a house lately inhabited, called to this day *Denmark*. To confirm the truth of this ancient piece of history, we have the uninterrupted tradition of the country, the testimony of our most ancient Historians, the undoubted marks of a battle, the armorial bearings of the Errol Family, the Bows and the Yokes, as far back as the twelfth century; and could any pieces of the armour be discovered, of which there is some probability, showing their origin to be Danish, it would put the matter beyond all doubt.

Another piece of antiquity not to be omitted, is the continuation of the causeway, leading from the Roman camp at Ardoch, which crosses the Tay at its present conflux with the Almond. At this place there are the remains of a Roman station, regularly formed into a square, surrounded with a deep

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Cromwell Park.—I shall begin at the West end, and proceed regularly towards the East. The first object deserving notice

fosse, which has been for some years gradually washing away by the overflowing of the Almond. There have been dug up several earthen urns, filled with human ashes; particularly a large one, about half an inch in thickness, made of a very fine clay of a brown colour, plated on the inside with brass, almost consumed, and covered with verdigreese, containing about ten English gallons. Another very curious one discovered, was smaller than the former, the contents of which were, a few ashes of oak-wood, and part of a lachrymatory, which was a small glass phial, the eighth of an inch in thickness, containing about an English quart and a half; at the bottom of another of these was found a plate of lead, weighing about two stone weight, with Roman characters inscribed.

The foundation of a wooden bridge thrown over the Tay at this place still remains. It consists of large oak planks, from six to eight inches in diameter, fastened together by long skairs, but coarsely jointed, and surrounded with clasps of iron, frequently twisted. It would seem, that screwbolts, and fine made joints, were then unknown. I caused one of them to be raised some years ago, at the request of the late Dr Hope, who assured me that the fabric of the wood was not in the least decayed. At the other end, beyond this bridge, to the North East, there are some remains of the continuation of the causeway, almost as far as Blairgowrie, beyond which there are no traces of this famous military road to be discovered. This gives great credit to the report of the battle betwixt Agricola and Galgacus being fought in that neighbourhood. Tacitus informs us, that his father-in-law Agricola met with a heavy stroke in the death of his only son, an infant, which greatly afflicted him. Afterwards he led his army to the foot of the Grampians, where this battle was fought, and where Agricola, not without much bloodshed, remained master of the field. In this engagement, Aulus Atticus, captain of a cohort, was killed. He was esteemed by Agricola, and much lamented by him and the army. It is not improbable, that the large ornamented urn contained the ashes of Agricola's son, and that the smaller one with the lachrymatory, the ashes of Atticus, who would be interred with military honours. The present course of the Almond, though near the military road and station, is about half a mile to the northward from its junction with the Tay in former times. This river anciently had its course by Ruthven Castle, now Huntingtower, where there is still a small rivulet, known by the

notice is Cromwell Park. This was lately enclosed with a stone dyke, and may contain about one hundred and sixty
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the name of Old Almond. At this place there was a Royal Fort, and a small village called Bartha, which was carried down the river in the night time by a very great inundation. King William the first, surnamed the Lion, had his youngest son, John, with his nurse, and fourteen of his domestics, carried down the river and drowned. This happened in the year one thousand, two hundred and ten; so far Buchanan, and his predecessor Boetius deserve credit, and their narration is confirmed by other historians, as well as by the constant tradition. But that the King, about two years afterwards, removed the remains to the present site of the town of Perth, which he afterwards called Perth, or Perthai, is by no means deserving of equal credit. That Perth has been overflowed by the waters of the Tay, is certain, but, from the digging for the foundation of some houses lately built, there have been discovered paved streets, from three to ten feet deep, so that it has probably always stood on, or near to its present situation. This opinion is strengthened by this circumstance, that the charter granted by King William is only a *nova damus*, or a renewal of a former charter.

There are, in various parts, remains of Druidical places of worship, and judgment, particularly at Uver Beuchil, where there are twelve large stones set on end, and one larger in the middle. At some small distance, there are other two, the one with nine, and the other with seven, and what is peculiar with these here and elsewhere, is, that the number is always an odd one.

There are large heaps of stones near Pitcairn, called penance cairns, which, according to the tradition of the country, were collected by way of penance in the time of popery. They are in the neighbourhood of a popish chapel, which is now in ruins.

About a quarter of a mile below Stanley, where the river Tay is of considerable breadth, there is a natural ridge of rocks that runs across the river, almost forming an arch, which, at the top, within these thirty years, was only eighteen feet wide: but the arches were thrown down of late, in order to build a dam dyke for an inlet of the water to Luncarty Bleachfield. Two similar arches were formed over the river Almond, where they were but of late widened for similar purposes. The fabric of these is not inferior in point of symmetry to the work of the most ingenious architect, but greatly surpasses the art of human hands in point of strength.

I shall close this account of the antiquities of this parish, by observing, that in a field, called to this day Cromwell Park, the report is, that the Pro-
tector

acres. The proprietor, about fourteen years ago, offered to let the whole for a rent of thirty pounds sterling; now it is become the seat of two large manufactures, a cotton mill, and a print-field, and brings to the proprietor of the land an hundred a-year; but, if we take in the improvement of the adjoining fields, necessarily connected with these great works, its value can scarcely be estimated. About twelve years ago, Mr William M'Alpine, from the neighbourhood of Glasgow, a clergyman's son, who had been bred a callico printer, came to view this country, and having beheld with astonishment the great quantity of fresh water, the numerous falls for working machinery by water, made choice of this spot for erecting a cotton mill and print-field. Enlarging his views as he discovered more of the advantages of the situation of the neighbourhood near Perth, he set down very extensive works for printing on the other side of the Tay, in the parish of Scone, now called Stormontfield; and showed, in all his operations, an extent of genius, hitherto unknown in this part of the country. But, such is the fatality of all human schemes, not content with his views in this country, he unhappily involved himself with some of the great houses in Manchester, who failed some years ago, by the market being overstocked with cottons, and with them he fell. However, the spirit he raised in this neighbourhood, caught some of the wealthy people in Perth, who hitherto had not observed their natural and local advantages. Now a company of Perth merchants carry on here both the spinning cotton and printing calicoes. The printing, in the year preceding the sixth of July, seventeen hundred and ninety-one,

rector had a small advanced camp, to check the inroads of the Highlanders into Perth, which afterwards gave the name to this field, which it still retains. In digging the foundation of a cotton mill, which has lately been erected there, square iron shot of thirty-two pounds weight were found, which gives credibility to the common report, which has never been doubted.

ane, amounted to 198,288 square yards of calicoes and linens, and has since varied, more, or less, according to the demand. When the cotton mill is finished, it will contain about four thousand spindles, and give employment to near nine hundred hands. There are about one hundred and fifty employed in various branches of the printing business, besides their families.

Pitcairn-Green.—Adjoining to these, and dependant on them, is the village of Pitcairn-green, which is only in its infancy; but of which Mrs Cowley, in her elegant poem on this rising village, predicts, that it will one day rival Manchester. May her prophecy be soon accomplished!

Battleby.—Proceeding eastward, the next village is Battleby, near where the battle of Loncarty was fought, but as yet there are few houses built. It is meant for weavers, and to accommodate the Loncarty company.

Loncarty.—About half a mile further on, is Loncarty, where stand the works erected by the late Mr William Sandeman. There is a large farm here, and though the soil is rather barren, the hand of industry has wrought wonders. I have with pleasure frequently beheld this ingenious man pointing out to strangers a small field containing about six acres, which he intended for bleaching thread, and to which he originally designed to confine his attention in that branch of business. But scarce was it finished, when his ideas expanded, and for more than thirty years past, there have been eighty acres or upwards covered with cloth, which has been whitened and dressed either after the Dutch or Irish mode, in so perfect a manner, that as yet it is unrivalled in great Britain. Mr Sandeman was very lucky in adopting a skil-

ful and attentive partner, Mr Hector Turnbull, who with great success conducted the operative part of this work. Five hundred thousand square yards, at a medium, are bleached annually; and though both these gentlemen are now dead, their sons and descendants conduct matters in such a masterly way, that the business is rather increasing for these two years past. Besides linens of various descriptions, they have now begun to bleach muslins. This company spins cotton by jennies, constructed after the most approved plan; the carding and roving are performed by water. They employ about a thousand spindles. They made their own soap and candles till of late. They refine their old lees, and from them make ashes. It would swell this narration too much, to describe minutely the various and extensive machinery, the canals, and springs of water, conducted at very considerable expence to keep the whole in motion. I shall only add, that so far from being as yet complete, when they either obtain a new lease, or à feu, from the proprietor, which is now in agitation, their works will probably be greatly enlarged, and other new branches of manufacture introduced, as they have several water falls yet unoccupied. There are more than three hundred employed here, besides their families.

All the manufactures I have taken notice of, are erected on the estate of Colonel Graham of Balgowan, who has three fourths of the whole parish. This gentleman, for some time past, has given considerable attention to improving his lands, has planted with great taste many thousands of firs, and all manner of forest wood; covered with trees the little eminences in different places; run slips of planting for miles along the different farms, and twixt the different enclosures; built fences with ditches and quicks; and where stones could be got, has made snap dykes, which form an immediate fence. So that from being heath and uncultivated land,

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his extensive estate has become almost a garden: and however brilliant his service to his country has been, in raising for Government two battalions of soldiers, his patriotism, in improving so much waste land, is a more essential service, and will continue when the brilliancy of his martial exploits will be forgotten.

Stanley — After passing Loncarty and Mr Graham's property, we come next to the estate of Nairn, belonging to the Duke of Athol, where the improvements are not less rapid and worthy of notice. The most remarkable object here is the cotton mill of Stanley, which employs about 2000 spindles; and besides this, there is now erecting a mill for spinning flax; but as the site of both these are in the parish of Aughtergavin, I shall only here take notice, that a small rivulet running through the village, divides the two parishes, and when the whole plan is completed, there will be more than the half of it in this, besides the whole of their present farm. In that part of the village belonging to Redgorton, there are at present about three hundred souls.

As to the improvements of land, what is remarkable, is this circumstance, that about three or four years ago, two thirds were heath, and now they are fertile fields of corn, wheat, and grafs. The two farms most improved, and which more immediately catch the eye of the traveller, are those possessed by Mr James Stobie, land-surveyer, and Mr Charles Stewart, on each of which there are erected houses and offices in a tasteful style.

Besides the public works already mentioned, there is one corn mill, one oil ditto, one flour ditto, and one barley ditto, belonging to Lord Methven, at the mills of Pitcairn. In other places, there are two corn mills, belonging to Colonel Graham.

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In the whole of this parish, three fourths of which were within these few years heath and swamps, there are little more than 300 acres of muir, the rest being under tillage, or covered with trees. In the lower part of the parish there are 3289 acres.

Population.—In the year 1755 by Dr Webster's computation, the numbers were 1074. There must have been a mistake here: for in the year 1763, when the present incumbent was settled, by an accurate survey, the number of souls amounted to little more than 600. In the year 1772, they amounted to 1700 and odds, and now to 2123, of which 507 are under 10 years of age. But as some of the manufactures are in a state of infancy, and as there are not yet houses built within the parish sufficient to accommodate those employed therein, who are obliged to lodge in the neighbouring parishes, the present numbers are but an imperfect sketch of the hands employed in the various branches of trade. Houses are continually building; so that, in a few years, the numbers of this parish will probably be doubled; particularly at the cotton works in Cromwell Park, where at present two floors only are filled with machinery; but before Whitsunday next, the whole will be completed, which will bring an increase of 400 or 500 inhabitants.

As the register of births and burials is not accurately kept; as poor people in many cases omit entering their names in the register, to avoid the trifling expence of registration, and some bury the dead without the assistance of the sexton, the account of either cannot be exact: but from the most authentic documents that can be collected, the annual births, for some time past, at a medium, amount to somewhere betwixt 80 and 100, the burials betwixt 20 and 30, and the marriages about 18.

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There are about 30 weavers, but their number will soon increase; three smithies, and two master house carpenters, besides those belonging to the public works; there are seven public houses, but three would be perfectly sufficient for every useful purpose. There are no residing heritors, neither are there here any physicians, lawyers, or attornies. There are 14 farms, of which 10 are the property of Colonel Graham. Besides these, are many small possessions, having attached to them from one to ten acres. There seems to be a design formed, and already carried into execution for about two miles, to connect these small pendicles and the various villages; so that within a few years, the whole length of the parish, which is about six miles, will appear as one connected village. There are no oxen used there, either for plowing or the draught; and as the common plough is generally drawn by two horses, the number of black cattle reared here is but small, and generally sold at the age of two or three years. There is not a man or woman that has either hand or limb without employment.

Productions—The crops raised here are wheat, rye, barley, oats, pease, turnips, flax, potatoes, and grafs-seeds of various kinds; the one half of the farms being generally in grafs. They export some wheat and rye, large quantities of barley, some young cattle, and considerable quantities of slates. They import some of the larger kind of horses, and great quantities of oats and oat meal. There are two small pits of shell-marle, and the rivers Almond and Shockie are lined with rock marle, of a reddish colour. They generally lay 50 bolls of shell-marle on the acre, but four times that quantity of rock marle; the former loses its virtue within five years, while the other continues to operate for fifteen, and seems fully to compensate for the extra expence in digging and carriage.

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In the lower part of the parish, there are 2,439 acres arable, 250 on natural pasture, 300 planted, and nearly as much in heath. There is a measurement of the whole parish.

Miscellaneous Observations,—Advantages.—From the local situation of this parish, it is both healthy, and capable of great improvements, from there being water falls at many places yet unoccupied. The sick from Perth, which is almost situated as low as the surface of the river, come here to breathe a purer air, and to recover health. The disciples of the late Mr John Glas, who was the father and founder of the independents in Scotland, can attest the truth of this. They find Luncarty a place both cheerful and nourishing; from which the wearied seldom go without refreshment, or the hungry without being fed. The work people, employed in the various manufactures, are distinguished from their neighbours by the cleanliness and neatness of their dress, particularly the females, who, upon this account, are generally married very young. There is a sprightliness and vivacity in their manners, which is very engaging; and on all convivial occasions, especially at their weddings, as they are generally taught to dance, they display a gaiety and order, which is seldom found in other places. The bounds of the parish do not confine this humour, but it has diffused itself through the whole country; and the proprietors of those works who reside in Perth, have felt its influence. In place of travelling in carts, and being jaded on hacks, many of the manufacturers have their own horses for riding, and give an airing to their wives and children, in genteel carriages. The gentlemen and ladies there, are dressed with the same elegance that is observed in other places, and their balls and assemblies are no less brilliant. A circumstance deserving notice, is this, that about thirty years ago,

ago, there were only three or four chaises in Perth to be let for hire, and now there are sixteen; and these must be bespoken several days before they are needed, otherwise the intended jaunt must be postponed. This increase cannot be altogether imputed to strangers who pass through Perth as a thorough-fare, but also to the great increase of the manufactures, which supply not only the necessaries, but also the elegancies of life. The attention to decorum has extended itself to the public worship of the Deity, where, besides the Psalms of David, the paraphrases lately recommended by the General Assembly, are sung in various parts, with some hymns and anthems; so that the music in this church is not excelled but by few in this kingdom. At the celebration of the great Christian festival, the Sacrament of the Supper, though the church scarcely contains the communicants, there is no field or tent preaching, as in some other places, so derogatory from the solemnity of this institution.

Disadvantages.—However, on the whole, it must be acknowledged, that the elevated and unequal surface of the greater part of the lands, render it wet and spongy, and the large whin stones found detached in different places, make it difficult to labour with the plough. But the one can be removed by drams, which can easily be filled with small stones, found every where in abundance; and the other, either by digging, blowing, or by sinking them below the level of the plough. If the tenants have no leisure for these operations, there are undertakers here, who will execute the work either by day wages or per acre. It is an impediment to the building here, that there is no free-stone in the parish; but this can be found in the neighbourhood, particularly near the confines of the parish of Methven. When

they build with whin-stone, either in time of rain or in thaw after frost, the houses become damp by the stones sweating, or becoming moist; a fault which only can be remedied by lathing the walls with wood, which is the case with the manse. There are many clay pits from which they make excellent bricks.

The gross rental of the whole parish, amounts nearly to one thousand and seven hundred pounds, including the fishings. But this conveys but an imperfect idea of what the yearly rental will soon be. For the farm of Loncarty, which contains about five hundred acres, rents only at eighty guineas, and there are other farms in a similar situation. The Duke of Athol's tacks have been lately set for twenty two years, but the most of Colonel Graham's are nearly expired. The detached part of the parish, which runs along the Grampians, is not remarkable for any thing but its blue slate quarries, which, though neither so large nor so thin as the Ealsdale slates, are very durable. There are two kinds, a light and dark blue; the last is generally preferred.

There is no other church than the established one; and the various sects of seceders, burgers, relief and independents, do not amount to more than a twentieth part of the parish. The manse and church were built within these twenty years; and though both are more elegant than the ordinary ones, yet they are both too small. The stipend, estimating the victual at the usual conversion, is scarce eighty pounds; it is probable, however, it will soon be augmented. There were originally three chapels depending on the Abbey of Scone, with a glebe annexed to each, but were sometime after the Reformation erected into one parish, which afterwards took its name from the central one, Redgorton. Two of the glebes are contiguous to the present

sent manse, and altogether may measure about twelve acres. The Viscount Stormont, now Earl of Mansfield, is patron.

The present incumbent was settled in 1763. His immediate predecessor was George Frazer, now minister at Moneidy, who succeeded to George Meek, whose predecessor was George Blaky, who was the first minister settled after the Revolution, and succeeded — Achterlouny, who carried off all the public records in his time, as well as those that were more ancient; and since, no account of the ancient poor's funds has ever been recovered.

The heritors of this parish, are, the Duke of Athol, Lord Methven, Colonel Graham of Balgowan, and Mr Drummond of Logiealmond, none of whom reside.

The funds for maintaining the poor are small; they arise chiefly from seat rents in the church, the weekly collections, and a small assessment of ten or fifteen pounds yearly, the one half paid by the heritors, the other by the parishioners. The poor here seldom exceed eight or ten in number; and a sum not exceeding thirty pounds is sufficient for their support, as well as for defraying all the expences of the session clerk, &c. The poor get from two to six shillings monthly, and, before winter, a few coals and cloaths when necessary. From half of the collections, which the Session is allowed, to dispose of at pleasure; the money from the mortcloths, and the fines, the poor children, who are not on the parish list, are educated, get books and cloaths. When any extraordinary calamity falls out, there is a collection made for the purpose, which is generally liberal. There have been no beggars or travelling poor here for these thirty years, ever since the present incumbent was settled. There is one parochial school; the salary is no more than one hundred merks Scots; the number of scholars is from fifty to one hundred. Besides this, there are two private schools, one at Stanley, the other at Cromwell Park. There are

three public roads which pass through this parish, and very near the manse: the great road from Perth to Dunkeld, which is a turnpike, that from Dunkeld to Balgowan, Stirling, &c; and the third from Perth to the West Highlands through Glenalmond. About twenty years ago, the annual wages of a man-servant, were from four to five pounds, now from seven to ten; and of a woman-servant, from thirty to forty shillings, now three or four pounds. A day-labourer then thought himself well paid with eight pence, now he demands one shilling, and can scarce be hired at any rate. The people in this parish, are very industrious, unless it be strangers, on their first coming from distant parts, who soon acquire the decent manners of this country. Considerable attention is paid to the morals of the people at the public works, particularly at Loncarty, where the manufactures have been established for forty years. When the young folks of either sex, are suspected of too much intimacy, the young man is called before his master; and if he refuses to marry the lass he professes to love, he is immediately dismissed from the work; but if he marries, which is generally the case, he gets a house and garden, and a small compliment. The only fuel made use of here is coal, which they either bring from Perth, or from the pits. If the last is the case, they set off with their carriages about midnight, and arrive at home the next evening in the twilight.

General Observations.—I shall conclude this history with a few general observations respecting the police of the country, and the improvement of the livings of the clergy in Scotland.

If the gentry could be induced to attend the worship of the established church; if the churches were rendered more comfortable, and the roads and avenues leading thereunto,
were

were kept decent and dry, public worship would be more generally attended, the collections for the poor would be increased, assessments rendered unnecessary in most country parishes, the gentlemen would thereby become more patriotic, and their influence greatly enlarged. However lightly they may think of the present assessments for the maintenance of the poor, which will every day increase, if no method similar to the above is adopted, they will soon become as burdensome as the poor's rates in England; which will consequently lower the value of their lands.

If the Legislature would enlarge the glebes, and in place of six, allocate to the clergy twenty or thirty acres of land, it would be both advantageous to the incumbent and useful to the whole country, by setting to public view a field well cultivated, and that at no greater expence than could be afforded by the ordinary farmer. But till this can be obtained, might not the heritors accomodate their ministers with a few acres at the same rate that they would demand from others, without charging, as a few do, an extra rent on account of the convenience, &c?

To obtain favour in these respects to the clergy of this church, would it not be an inducement, that the present incumbents would pay a little more attention to what land they already possess, and join with the *utile* some degree of elegance; as enlarging their gardens, and bestowing some pains on their cultivation, and, where the situation of the manse permits, have a small lawn and shrubbery around the house. It would be no great expence to plant an hundred fruit trees or more, which in a few years would become profitable. I speak not from theory, but from my own experience. I know a neighbour, who, by enlarging his garden, has got a plot for onions which yields him from five to ten pounds

pounds yearly, and that without any other expence than ploughing and harrowing, without the aid of the spade. Another sells apples to the amount of ten pounds and upwards; a third garden roots and gooseberries to the same amount. Why should not the practice be general?

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