

NUMBER XLIV.

PARISH OF TIBBERMUIR.

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

By the Rev. Mr JOHN INGLIS, Minister.

Name.

AMONG strangers, and in the common almanacks of the country, the name of this parish is *Tippermuir*; but the orthography adopted in the title, which is universally in use among the inhabitants, is abundantly justified by ancient writings, and the probable etymology of the name. In a charter granted to the monastery of Scone, in the reign of William the Lion*, it is written with the Latin termination *Tibbirmora*; and in Fordun's History of Scotland, it is *Tybirmore*: Conformably to this ancient orthography, the name is understood to be compounded of two Gaelic words, *tuber* and *more*, which signify a large well, referring probably to a plentiful spring of water immediately adjoining to the church-yard.

Extent, Situation, and Surface.—The parish is, from east to west, about 6 miles long; and its breadth varies from one to three miles. It is bounded on the east by the parish of Perth;
on

* See the chartulary of Scone in the Advocate's Library.

on the north, the river *Almond* separates it from the parish of Redgorton, and a brook called the *Pow*. from that of Methven; on the west, it is bounded by the parish of Gask, and on the south, by those of Forteviot and Aberdalgy. The surface, without being hilly, is considerably diversified. Towards the west, it exhibits a gentle slope from south to north, terminating in a narrow track of level ground; and towards the east, the greater part of the fields being somewhat raised above the level of the Almond, communicate, by a steep descent, with a delightful plain along the banks of the river.

Climate and Diseases.—The air, though rather moist, is not accounted unhealthy; and it deserves particular notice, that here, as well as in the neighbouring parishes, the ague, which, from time immemorial, had been the most common disease of the country, has, within these 20 years, completely disappeared, without any natural cause, of sufficient importance, being hitherto assigned for it.

Acres, Soil, Proprietors, and Cultivation.—The parish contains about 4670 Scotch acres; of these 185 are under wood; 96 are part of an extensive moor, which furnishes the surrounding inhabitants with peats for fuel; 100 more are in the state of uncultivated heath; and the remainder, about 4289, are all arable ground.

The cultivated land contains several varieties of soil. Towards the east, upon the banks of the Almond, it is a sandy loam; near to the town of Perth, somewhat of a clayey consistence; and upon the higher grounds, more light and thin, with a gravelly bottom. Towards the west, the bottom is rather cold, and generally stilly, which occasions many of the fields to be wet; but the surface soil is, notwithstanding, tolerably fertile; and though, in some places, it partakes a
 little

little of the nature of moss, the greater part may be classed under one or other of the different kinds of loam.

The whole parish, excepting about 500 acres, is the property of the Duke of Athol and the Earl of Kinnoull; and the land is cultivated by about 60 farmers, great and small, in a thriving condition. In no place, perhaps, are the late rapid improvements in agriculture more remarkably exemplified than in this particular parish. About 30 years ago, it was distinguished by its poverty; at present, its surface exhibits to the eye a rich and fertile prospect, and the increased wealth of the inhabitants very properly appears in their improved manner of living. It is also pleasant to remark, that the spirit for agricultural improvement still appears to keep pace with, if it does not even anticipate, the farmer's acquisition of wealth. In one particular view, indeed, the character of the farmer's mind has undergone a most important and happy change: Formerly, he was so obstinately prejudiced in favour of the practice of his fathers that he could not listen, without a sneer, to any suggestion relative to new improvements; now his prejudices are so completely removed, that he is eager to know and understand whatever improvements others are attempting, and even to adopt such as appear to be reasonable, though at first upon that small scale which prudence undoubtedly dictates. What better subject could the Agricultural Society desire to cultivate, than a farmer's mind in this particular state *!

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* While the present proprietors vie with one another, in promoting this laudable spirit, it is impossible not to remember the late Earl of Kinnoull, as the father of agricultural improvement, in that extensive district of the parish, which, from its local situation, and other circumstances, appeared least susceptible of such melioration. By a liberal treatment of his
tenants;

The principal crops are oats, barley or bear, and clover with rye-grass. Wheat also, though not hitherto universally cultivated, is becoming every year more common. A prejudice was long entertained against sowing wheat upon fields that are naturally wet, from an idea that such a soil, when swelled with the winter rains, would be apt to cast out the roots of the young plants; but experience has clearly shewn that this objection, however specious in theory, is not entitled to much practical regard;—where early sowing has been attended to, the wetness of the soil has seldom, if ever, proved fatal to the crop of wheat. Pease and beans having been found precarious crops, are rather less cultivated than they were some time ago. Turnips, though not altogether neglected, are neither a general crop, nor raised in great quantities. Where the fields are wet, the farmer is afraid of poaching the soil, in carting them off during the winter; besides, the consumption of the butcher market of Perth is by no means equal to the supply of fat cattle which the wide and rich country around is capable of affording; and many farmers, who might otherwise have large fields of turnips, are thereby induced to content themselves with such a quantity as they find to be useful in rearing their young stock. The quantity of potatoes is inconsiderable, being cultivated chiefly for family use. Flax is by no means a crop high in the farmer's estimation; besides the trouble attending it, it

has

tenants;—by granting them improving leases upon moderate terms;—by lodging them in more comfortable houses than had been formerly allowed to people of their condition;—by personal attentions, in which he did not fail to distinguish the most deserving;—by manifesting, equally in his words and actions, the interest he felt in their prosperity;—he infused into them a spirit superior to their former condition, gradually enlarged their views, raised, in some sense, their rank in society, and thus prepared them to devise and execute such plans of improvement as man, in a more depressed situation, will never attempt.

has the peculiar disadvantage of adding nothing to the dung-hill, which must undoubtedly be an important objection with farmers who purchase dung in the town of Perth, at the rate of 3 s. or 4 s. for the cart load, and afterwards carry it in some instances five or six miles*.

Since the late rapid introduction of fallow, wheat, clover, &c. in this parish, there has not been sufficient time for any particular rotation of crops obtaining such a decided preference, as to be universally adopted; but the following is the rotation most likely to prevail:—*1st*, year, fallow;—*2^d*, wheat, with the whole dung of the farm, and also lime occasionally;—*3^d*, pease, or clover and rye-grass, and perhaps a few turnips, which are found to answer tolerably well without dung;—*4th*, barley or bear;—*5th*, clover and rye-grass;—*6th*, oats †.

The implements of husbandry have been gradually improving for many years. The old Scotch plough, indeed, long maintained its ground in opposition to a variety of others, which were successively tried and abandoned; but an English plough, with a mould-board of cast metal, which was
lately

* Lime is the only other manure used in the parish, and is procured at a reasonable rate, at the port of Perth.

† One objection, indeed, seems already to occur against this mode of management, and may hereafter have influence. Repeated fallows, that admit of no crop for the season, are not perhaps absolutely necessary for the mere purpose of keeping the land clean, provided that green crops, and particularly drill crops, be judiciously introduced; and though it should even be found impossible, upon some soils, to raise a good crop of wheat without a previous fallow, it may admit of a question, whether a crop of barley in place of the wheat, together with a green crop in place of the fallow, might not be more valuable than the crop of wheat that would be thereby superseded; and whether the land might not also remain in equally good, if not better condition.

lately introduced, has obtained a decided preference, and is now almost universally in use*.

Upon the wet grounds, the seed time is often retarded by rains. In the year 1795, many of the farmers had it not in their power to begin the sowing of oats till the month of May; but this year, viz. 1796, some oats have been sown in the first week of March—the one the latest, and the other perhaps the earliest seed time that is remembered. In ordinary seasons, the sowing of oats is begun in the first week of April, barley in the first week of May, and wheat about the middle of September. The improvement of the soil, and the practice of a more regular husbandry, have rendered our harvest season somewhat earlier than formerly. It is common to begin cutting wheat about the end of August; barley in the beginning of September; and the other corn in course, without intermitting the harvest work. The average crop of oats upon a Scotch acre is 5 bolls; of barley 7; of wheat 9, all Linlithgow measure. About 1 boll and 2 pecks of oats produce a boll of meal. The average price of oat meal, barley, and pease, is 15 s. for the boll; of wheat, one guinea †.

Nearly all the farms are inclosed and subdivided with ditches and hawthorn hedges, but all the inclosures of this kind are hitherto insufficient; and this, it is believed, must continue to be the case, till much more effectual means be employed for protecting and rearing the young hedges, and especially for saving their shoots from being cropped by the
farmer's

* The plough alluded to does not appear to have any distinguishing name that is generally known. It is not Small's plough.

† These may perhaps be accounted the average prices, without making allowance for the extraordinary prices of crops 1794 and 1795.

farmer's cattle. At present, the insufficiency of the inclosures appears to be attended with less inconvenience, because there is very little of the land in the state of pasturage; but perhaps the want of sufficient inclosures is one great reason why the pasture fields are so few; for wherever there is inclosed ground in the neighbourhood, the proprietor finds it in his power, by keeping it in pasture, and letting it annually for the season, to draw such a high rent as is out of all due proportion to the rent of corn land.

The valued rent of the parish is 4921 l. Scotch money*; the real rent, about 3200 l. Sterling. The average rent of the Scotch acre is about 15 s. Sterling.

Manufactures.—To the enterprise and industry of very early times †, we are indebted for a large canal or water-lead, drawn from the river Almond, which intersects an extensive meadow, called Ruthven or Huntingtower-haugh, in the east end of the parish; and the peculiar advantage which this affords for manufacturing establishments, has been very industriously improved within these late years. One of the first manufactures attempted here was that of paper; and at the mill erected for this purpose, Morison and Lindsay of Perth at present keep two vats employed in the manufacture chiefly of the coarser articles, such as cartridge, blue, and other packing papers; the quantity manufactured in one year is from 5000 to 6000 reams, and the number of persons employed in the work from 25 to 30. The canal, however, and the adjacent grounds, offered more distinguished advantages

* In the cess-books of the county, the valued rent of this parish is stated somewhat higher, because some lands, which are now considered as belonging to another parish, are there included in the calculation.

† See the article *Antiquities*.

tages to the manufacturer in other departments; and accordingly a bleachfield, under the firm of Richardson and Co. whose buildings and machinery were erected here in the year 1775, has become a very large and important concern. The brown cloth to be bleached is brought chiefly from Perth, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, and Glasgow; but such is the increasing character of the field, and the high reputation of the acting partner of the company, that, for some years past, a considerable quantity of diapers in particular, have been regularly sent to him from Darlington in England. About 70 Scotch acres are commonly covered with cloth, and the work employs or maintains about 100 men, women, and children. There are also some other fields in this parish, employed as bleaching ground, in connection with a work, whose buildings and machinery are in the parish of Perth*. And it ought not, perhaps, here, to remain unobserved, that at present the quantity of cloth bleached in the neighbourhood of Perth, far exceeds the quantity that is woven or otherwise manufactured in the town and district around. This would lead us to presume, either that there must be something in the situation peculiarly favourable to the operation of bleaching, or that nothing is wanted but equal enterprise in the other departments: And that the last supposition may be the just one, is rendered probable, by the uncommon success of some late attempts, of which a remarkable example naturally presents itself in the case of a printfield, under the firm of *Young, Ross, Richardson, and Carr* †, which was established in this parish upon the same canal, so lately as the year 1792, and has already become an object of such importance, as to be entitled to a distinguished place

in

* Tulloch bleachfield, upon the same canal.

† Ruthven printfield.

in this statistical report. A bleachfield upon a small scale gave way to this more important work on the site of it; and additional ground having been procured, as well as additional houses erected, the work already employs about 250 men, women, and children. The spirit and success, with which the business is here conducted, may be judged of by the following instance: In the year 1793, when the general stagnation of credit, and the want of market for cotton goods in particular, induced many of the principal manufacturers, either to dismiss a part of their working people, or to restrict their employment to 3 or 4 days in the week, the managers of this printfield, though then but an infant Company, rejected such an expedient, and at the same time adopted another well worthy of being imitated, if the same necessity should again occur. Instead of dismissing any of their people, or restricting their days of working, they made a small reduction, for the time, in the rate of wages, which enabled them more easily to keep the usual number of hands in constant employment; and while, in this way, the earnings of the working people were less impaired, the full benefit of their industry was preserved to the public, and the vices that arise from idleness happily prevented. This work derives much advantage from the staple manufacture of the country around being cloth of such kinds as are adapted to the purpose of printing, and from a safe, regular, and expeditious conveyance of goods to the London market, by means of the small vessels that are employed in carrying salmon from the port of Perth. Besides these things, the whole country around Perth affords peculiar encouragement to manufacturers of every description, from the average prices of corn and butcher's meat being here considerably lower than in the west of Scotland, which is at present the principal seat of manufactures,—an advantage naturally derived from the superior extent

extent and fertility of the country, compared to the population of the town and its neighbouring villages. The high price of coals is perhaps the only peculiar disadvantage that attends the manufacturers of this district; and even this disadvantage has been considerably lessened by the wisdom of the Legislature, in abolishing the duty upon sea-borne English coals.

Wages.—The average yearly wages of a ploughman are 9 l. and of a maid servant 3 l. with board or maintenance to each; the average day wages of a callico printer are 3 s. of a bleacher 1 s. *; of an ordinary labourer 1 s. and 2 d. all without board.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church, which is an old building, has been lately repaired and rendered convenient. The manse was built in the year 1744, and has been repaired at different times. The stipend, in consequence of a late augmentation, consists of 8 chalders of meal and bear, and 35 l. sterling, together with 100 l. Scots of communion element-money. The King is patron. The ministers, from the reformation downwards, have been Alexander Young †, Alexander Balneavis, sen. Alexander Balneavis, jun. ‡, David Meldrum,

* Bleachers have commonly in their power to earn somewhat more, by working some hours extraordinary.

† Mr Alexander Young was prior of the Carmelite Monastery of Tullilum, (mentioned under the head of antiquities) and, upon embracing the reformed religion, was admitted minister of Tibbermuir. See *Perth Hospital Records*.

‡ It is worthy of observation, that Messrs Balneavis, father and son, were ministers of this parish for the space of 100 years, notwithstanding that the son did not die minister here, but was removed at the period of the revolution. See *Perth Presbytery Records*.

Meldrum, Patrick Duncan, Alexander Duff, and John Inglis, the present incumbent.

State of the Poor.—There are no begging poor in the parish; but there are commonly about 12 pensioners on the roll of the kirk session, to whom every allowance is made for rendering them comfortable, that would not operate to the discouragement of industry. Besides the interest of 60 l. Sterling, and the collections at the church, &c. a small parochial assessment is made for their better support; one half of which is paid by the heritors, and the other by the farmers, &c. the mode of the assessment being regulated by an act and recommendation of the country, founded upon the different acts of Parliament relative to the poor. It is pleasant to remark, that the kirk-session never find cause to reject any application for charity, none being ever made without real necessity:—Long may the lower classes of people in Scotland be distinguished by that laudable pride of independence, which makes them struggle, to the last, to maintain themselves on the fruit of their labour, rather than depend, unnecessarily, on the charity of others!

Table of Population, &c.

Number of souls in 1755,			988
----- 1796,	-	-	1280
Males	-	-	630
Females	-	-	650
Under 10 years of age	-	-	336
From 10 to 20	-	-	257
From 20 to 50	-	-	536
From 50 to 70	-	-	129
From 70 to 80	-	-	20
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Unwards of 80	-	-	-	2
Families	-	-	-	271
Married persons	-	-	-	396
Widowers	-	-	-	20
Widows	-	-	-	33
Unmarried householders	-	-	-	20
Antiburghers	-	-	-	302
Burghers *	-	-	-	22
Masons	-	-	-	11
Wrights	-	-	-	21
Weavers	-	-	-	24
Shoemakers	-	-	-	6
Tailors	-	-	-	7
Male farm-servants	-	-	-	114
Female-servants	-	-	-	65
Horses	-	-	-	290
Cattle	-	-	-	766
Sheep	-	-	-	31
Swine	-	-	-	14
Carts	-	-	-	175
Ploughs	-	-	-	105

Antiquities.—The canal, already mentioned under the article of *manufactures*, can be traced to a very early period, which, compared with the nature of the work, must give it importance in the view of the antiquary. It is nearly 18 feet broad, 3 feet deep, and, according to the course of the water, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles long; and though its source be in this parish, through which it also runs for about 3 miles, it appears to have been originally intended for the benefit of the

* There are a few dissenters of other classes than the two above mentioned.

the town of Perth, where it not only serves the corn-mills, and supplies the inhabitants with water, but has also contributed, probably, in former times, to strengthen the fortifications of the place; for, when it approaches Perth, it divides itself into two branches, which surround the town in a deep bed, close to the site of the ancient walls. But it is chiefly in its connection with the corn-mills, that we are enabled to trace its antiquity. The mills of Perth, as served by this canal, or lead, having been originally the property of the kings of Scotland, are mentioned by them in several very ancient charters; and in the year 1244, we find Alexander II. granting to the Monastery of Black Friars of Perth, a pipe of water from this canal, which he there denominates *his Mill-lead*, conformably to the name of *The King's Lead*, which it still bears*. Upon this evidence alone, the canal in question may undoubtedly be ranked among the earliest works of utility in our country, of which we still enjoy the advantage. It is difficult, indeed, to give credit to our own ancestors at so early a period, for all the enterprise and industry which it required. And when we recollect its probable design, originally, as an aid to the fortifications of Perth, it will not perhaps be unnatural to suppose it a Roman work;—at least, this idea will not appear improbable to those, who, from different circumstances, and particularly from the form and arrangement of the streets of Perth, ascribe the town itself to the Romans †.

Hunting-

* See the chartulary of the black friars of Perth in the Archives of King James's Hospital there.

† Whatever there may be in this supposition respecting the canal, it appears to derive some additional countenance from the family-history of the Mercers of Aldie, which enables us, as far as we may consider it authentic, to trace the corn mills of Perth, and consequently this canal or lead upon which they depended, to a period, at least, considerably earlier than the year

1242

Huntingtower Castle, formerly Ruthven Castle, which is situated in this parish, may perhaps be entitled to attention, as the ancient seat of the Ruthven or Gowrie family, so remarkable for its singular and mysterious catastrophe: But an event which has been the ground of so much controversy as that which is known by the name of *Gowrie's Conspiracy*, is evidently too great a subject, either for examination or detail
in

1244 above mentioned. Upon the authority of tradition, and some inscriptions of uncertain date, together with the circumstance of three mill-rynds being still a part of the Mercer's arms, it is generally believed, by those who have inquired into the subject, that the corn-mills served by this canal were originally the property of that family, and granted by them to the king, who, in return, gave them a burial-place in the church of Perth, which the family still possess. And if we compare these circumstances with a charter of confirmation granted by David I. to the Abbey of Dunfermline in the year 1140, (See Sir James Dalrymple's Collections) we find that the transaction alluded to, must have taken place, and consequently that the canal itself must have existed, prior to the date of this charter: For the king, therein, either gives away for the first time, or confirms what his predecessors had done in giving away, the whole property of the church of Perth to that Abbey, in whose possession it accordingly remained till the period of the reformation; and consequently, the royal grant of a burial-place in that church to the family of Aldie, as a return for their gift of the mills served by this canal, must have been of earlier date than the year 1140, from which period the church and its appendages were no longer at the disposal of the kings of Scotland. If this sort of evidence, then, can warrant us to believe that the canal in question belonged to the Mercers of Aldie before the year 1140, there also arises strong presumption of its having been a work of still earlier execution; for the nature and design of the work will scarce admit of our believing it to have been originally executed by the Mercers, or any private family whatever, but naturally lead to a supposition of its having been, in the first instance, a public concern, which, from circumstances now unknown, had at length come into the hands of a private family, perhaps only as far as regarded its connection with the corn-mills.

in this Statistical Report *. The castle itself is more particularly distinguished, as the place where King James VI. was for some time confined by the Earl of Gowrie, and others, who had entered into a combination for taking the young King out of the hands of his two early favourites, the lately created Duke of Lennox and Earl of Arran. * James, * after having resided for some time in Athol, where he enjoyed his favourite amusement of hunting, was now returning towards Edinburgh, with a small train. He was invited to Ruthven Castle, which lay in his way; and, as he suspected no danger, he went thither in hopes of farther sport. * The multitude of strangers whom he found there gave him * some uneasiness; and as those who were in the secret arrived every moment from different parts, the appearance * of so many new faces increased his fears. He concealed * his uneasiness, however, with the utmost care; and next * morning prepared for the field, expecting to find there * some opportunity of making his escape; but just as he was * ready to depart, the nobles entered his bed-chamber in a * body,

* The tradition of the country upon this subject is preserved in a paper written by the late Mr Alexander Duff minister of this parish, and presented by him to the Antiquarian Society of Perth. And it may here suffice to observe farther, respecting this family, whose general history is incorporated with that of the nation, that, from their ancient proper names, as these are found in charters of early date, they appear to have been of *Danish* extraction. In a charter, (formerly quoted) granted to the monastery of Scone by Walter the Lord of Ruthven, in the reign of William the Lion, he is denominated the son of *Alan*, grandson of *Suane*, and great grandson of *Thore*; and it is also perhaps worthy of notice, in this view, that the ford of a rivulet, which runs through the ancient manor of this family, and has now scarce any distinguishing name, is, in the same charter, denominated the Ford of *Lochlin*, which is known to be an ancient name for *Denmark*. The family is now represented by Lord Ruthven of Freeland.

body, and presented a memorial against the illegal and oppressive actions of his two favourites, whom they represented as most dangerous enemies to the religion and liberties of the nation. James, though he received their remonstrance with the complaisance that was necessary in his present situation, was extremely impatient to be gone; but as he approached the door of his apartment, the Tutor of Glamis rudely stopped him. The King complained, expostulated, threatened, and finding all these without effect, burst into tears. "No matter, said Glamis, fiercely, "better children weep than bearded men." These words made a deep impression on the king's mind, and were never forgotten. The conspirators, without regarding his tears or indignation, dismissed such of his followers as they suspected, allowed none but their own party to have access to him; and though they treated him with great respect, guarded his person with the utmost care. This enterprise is usually called by our historians, *The Raid of Ruthven*.* Those concerned in the transaction were afterwards declared guilty of high treason.

An extraordinary exploit of a fair lady has likewise added to the renown of this ancient castle, and has given the name of *The Maiden's Leap*, to the space between its two towers, which, though united by late buildings, were originally separate. A daughter of the first Earl of Gowrie was courted by a young gentleman of inferior rank, whose pretensions were not countenanced by the family. When a visitor at the castle, he was always lodged in a separate tower from the young lady. One night, however, before the doors were shut, she conveyed herself into her lover's apartment; and some prying Duenna, acquainted the Countess with it, who cutting

* Dr William Robertson's Hist. of Scotland.

cutting off, as she thought, all possibility of retreat, hastened to surprise them. The young lady's cars were quick,— she heard the footsteps of the old Countess, ran to the top of the leads, and took the desperate leap of 9 feet 4 inches over a chasm of 60 feet, and luckily lighting on the battlements of the other tower, crept into her own bed, where her astonished mother found her, and, of course, apologised for her unjust suspicion. The fair daughter did not choose to repeat the leap, but the next night, eloped and was married*.

After the forfeiture of the last Earl of Gowrie, this castle and the adjoining manor, were bestowed by King James VI. upon the family of Tullibardine, now united, by marriage, to the family of Athol, in whose possession they still remain; but as all idea of continuing this for a seat of family-residence has been for some time abandoned, the Duke has very wisely availed himself of the advantage which the local situation affords for the different manufactures already described; and such is the change in the circumstances of the place, concurring with the genius of the times, that the same castle, in which the proud and powerful baron once confined his king as a prisoner, is now quietly occupied by a colony of calico-printers.

Tibbermuir was, at an early period, the residence of several bishops of Dunkeld, particularly of Bishop Geoffrey, and Bishop Sinclair, who both died here, the one in the year 1249, the other in 1337 †. During their times, too, the principal

* Pennant's Tour.

† Fordun's Hist. of Scotland, and Mill's M. S. Lives of the Bishops of Dunkeld.

From the following language of Fordun, Bishop Geoffrey appears to have been eminently distinguished by his munificence, and attention to the interests of his Diocese: 'Hoc etiam an-

no,

principal place of worship belonging to this parish, was the church of St Servanus *, (commonly called St Serf's Chapel) situated on the north side of the river Almond, and according to modern boundaries within the parish of Redgorton. The desertion of this church is ascribed, by tradition, to the melancholy accident of a child of the Lord of Ruthven, who had been baptised there, having, on the way home, been drowned in the Almond.

At *Tullitum* too, in the east end of this parish, there was once a convent of Carmelites, but the name of the founder is not preserved. Our best information respecting this place

is

* no, obiit Episcopus Galfridus, in die Sanctae Ceciliae, apud Tybirmore, et in Ecclesia Dunkeldensi tumulatur; quam Praedictis et possessionibus dolavit, quam Regulis et Institutis infor-
 * mavit, quam vestibus et ornamentis decoravit, quam fere per
 * omnia exaltavit.'

Bishop Sinclair's name, however, is still better known in history, and the honours that adorn it are not of an ecclesiastical kind alone. A *military* exploit, that he performed in the glorious reign of Robert Bruce, so delighted that wise and valiant prince, that he ever afterwards called him *his Bishop*. Edward II. the English king, taking advantage of the absence of Robert, who was then in Ireland, had sent a great army into Scotland to take revenge for the losses of former years; and the English, having been thrice defeated by Douglas governor of the borders, had recourse to the expedient of sending a naval force into the Forth, to infest and plunder the coast. To check the progress of those who had disembarked, Duncan Earl of Fife assembled 500 men, and marched at their head towards the enemy; but having observed their vast superiority in number, he was returning homeward, leaving the country at the mercy of the English, when Bishop Sinclair, with about 60 attendants, fortunately met him. Ashamed of the Earl's timidity, the Bishop laid hold of a lance, and called, with a loud voice, upon all the friends of their country to follow him. Being readily obeyed, he charged the enemy with such vigour, that he quickly routed them; and those who escaped from the field of battle, having precipitately fled to their ships, many of them were drowned in their hurry to embark. *Buchanan, Maitland, &c.*

* Mill's *M. S. Lives of the Bishops of Dunkeld.*

is derived from Keith's Lives of the Bishops, where we learn that Richard Inverkeithing Bishop of Dunkeld built here a chapel and a house in 1262, and that the Synods of the Diocese met here till 1460, when Thomas Lauder Bishop of Dunkeld removed them to his own cathedral.

Tibbermuir has also given its name to the first battle that was fought between the Marquis of Montrose and the Covenanters, though the field of battle is perhaps as much, if not more, within the parish of Aberdalgy, which at this place approaches very near to the church of Tibbermuir. Before the engagement, the Covenanters were addressed by one of their enthusiastic preachers, in a manner suited to the genius of the times. 'If ever God, said he, spoke a word of truth out of my mouth, I promise you, in his name, assured victory this day;' but the event was not of a kind to justify much future confidence in his promises;—the Covenanters, amounting to about 6000 foot, and 600 horse, were completely vanquished by about 1700 half-armed Highlanders and Irish, who left 2000 of them dead in the field, and took 2000 prisoners.

Character of the People, &c.—The sobriety of the people may be in some measure inferred from the single circumstance, that there is only one ale-house, or whisky-shop, in the parish. Their industry, too, may be accounted considerable, from what has been said of their agriculture and manufactures; and if their minister's report can be received as impartial evidence, they are no less distinguished by Christian charity, in the different branches of that cardinal virtue.

The only peculiar disadvantage of outward situation, under which they labour, is that of bad roads; and if some speedy and effectual method of improving them could be adopted, the relief would be great indeed! In the mean

time, they are thankful for the advantage they derive from a lately-formed turnpike-road passing through a part of the parish; and for the gradual, though slow, improvement of their other roads, which the statute-labour is in the course of accomplishing.

END OF THE SEVENTEENTH VOLUME.

