

NUMBER X.

PARISH OF COLLAGE,

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

By a friend to Statistical Inquiries.

COLLACE, the etymology of which is uncertain, lies on the north side of the Sidla ridge of hills, 7 miles north-east of Perth, and 6 south-south-west of Cupar; in the presbytery, synod, and county of Perth; bounded, on the west, by the parish of St Martin; on the north and east, by Cargill; on the south east, by Abernyte; on the south and south-west, by Kinnaird and Kilnspindie; being about 2 miles in length, and as much in breadth.

Appearance, Soil, &c.—The northern division of this parish, tolerably uniform, and rising gently towards the hills, consists, partly of a light black loam, partly of mortar, on a bottom of till, and partly of sandy and mossy tracts, of

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no great extent. The district southward of the church, forms a portion of the elevated ridge already mentioned, which, with little interruption, extends from Perth, east-north-east, to Red-head, a promontory on the coast of Angus. The acclivity of those hills fronting the north, is in some places improved, and in others yields tolerable pastures: but the summit is every where covered with short heath, Dunfinnan hill excepted.

Population.—The population of Collace will appear from the following Statistical Table :

Number of inhabitants in the parish,	-	473
----- males,	-	245
----- females,	-	228
----- widowers,	-	9
----- widows,	-	16
----- farmers,	-	14
----- inconsiderable tenants,	-	89
----- cottagers,	-	12
----- servants, { males,	-	42
{ females,	-	41
----- minister,	-	1
----- schoolmaster,	-	1
----- gardener,	-	1
----- masons,	-	2
----- weaver-apprentices,	-	6
----- shoemakers,	-	3
----- tailors,	-	4
----- wrights,	-	6
----- flax-dressers,	-	5
----- millers,	-	2
----- day-labourers,	-	3
----- retailer of ale and whisky,	-	1
		Number

Number of merchants,	-	-	3
----- butcher,	-	-	1
----- smiths,	-	-	2
----- weavers,	-	-	47

The number of inhabitants below 10 is 93; between 10 and 20, 68; 20 and 50, 211; 50 and 70, 77; 70 and 80, 23; 80 and 90, 1. About 12 years ago, the number of births annually was 10, of marriages 3, of deaths 8. In the years 1790, 1791, and 1792, there were, at an average, 18 births, 4 marriages, and 12 deaths yearly. So that population, in this parish, is gradually increasing, which is owing, principally, to the encouragement given by the proprietor to farmers and tradesmen of every denomination. There are 117 inhabited houses, including one lint and one corn-mill. Two small villages lie at the foot of the hills, viz. Collace, situated on a rivulet, and Kinrossie, on elevated ground, not far from the church.

Agriculture, &c.—Improvements in agriculture are carried on, in this parish, with great ardour and success. About 20 years ago, a considerable proportion of it consisted of out-field, which, though very improveable, was held *gratis* by the tenants, and, on that account, was neglected. Every farm was then composed of detached fields, or several were blended together in run-rig; which were effectual bars to improvement. On his accession to the estate, Lord Dunfinnan, sole proprietor of the parish, formed a judicious arrangement, which has been productive of the most beneficial effects. The lands are now divided into regular-farms, and partly inclosed; and a certain quantity of out-field is allotted to every farm. Handsome farm-houses have been built; some of them at the proprietor's expence, and others by the tenant. Seven of the farm-houses are built of stone and lime,

lime, and covered with slate; and the rest, even those occupied by tradesmen, are sufficiently neat and commodious. A free house and garden is assigned to every aged and infirm person, who is incapacitated for the duties of active life, and unable to procure subsistence by labour.

Dunstanan-house, the proprietor's residence, is pleasantly situated, in the north-west corner of the parish, on a gentle eminence, 7 miles from Perth, to the north of the turnpike road which leads to Cupar-Angus. It is well sheltered from the northerly wind, by a large and thriving plantation of forest trees. The mansion-house is elegant, and the offices are well built, handsome, and spacious.

In that neighbourhood, several extensive tracts, formerly heathy and barren, are now enclosed, and in a state of high cultivation.

In consequence of recent improvements, considerable quantities of sown grass, turnips, potatoes, and flax, besides oats and barley, are annually raised. Some wheat is sown, and yields moderate returns. The scheme adopted by an intelligent and enterprising tenant is as follows: His farm is subdivided into seven parts. The first is fallow, well prepared with dung, and a sufficient quantity of lime; second, barley or wheat; third, turnip, potatoes, or pease; fourth, barley, with clover and rye-grass; fifth, grass; sixth, grass; seventh, oats. The successful efforts of another tenant, merit particular notice. His small farm, some years ago, consisted of fields, partly dry and stony, partly wet and marshy. This rude tract, he enclosed by a six feet ditch, drained by means of rumbling sewers, and ploughed for two or three years. When thoroughly pulverised, he applied lime, at the rate of 40 bolls of shells *per* acre, with as much dung as he could procure. In every field, thus prepared, he sowed oats, and the year following, barley. The crops answered his most sanguine expectation, and were remarkably

ably luxuriant. His success directed the attention of other farmers, to fields they had neglected, and incited them to follow his example. Some of the tenants, indeed, are not sufficiently attentive to a regular rotation of crops; but all of them are careful to extirpate noxious weeds, pulverise the soil, and apply proper quantities of lime, which is purchased at Perth, at the rate of 1 s. 9 d. *per* boll, of shells, if brought from Lord Elgin's kilns; and 2 s. 4 d. *per* boll, if imported from England. Two sorts of bear, viz. barley and chester, are promiscuously used by some, and separately by other farmers. Dutch oats were lately introduced, and have two valuable properties, namely, they arrive sooner at maturity, and yield a greater quantity of meal than the common oats. However, as they soon degenerate, and are easily shaken by the wind, it is not likely that they will prevail in this part of the country.

Prices of Farming Utensils, Labour, and Provisions.—The prices of farming utensils, labour, and provisions, are nearly the same as in neighbouring districts. There are 45 ploughs in this parish; 71 carts; 114 horses; and 394 black-cattle. The price of a cart is L. 5 or L. 6; and of a plough, L. 1, 17 s. Oat-meal, at an average, is 13 s. 4 d. *per* boll; barley ditto, 8 s. 6 d.; pease ditto, 9 s. 6 d.; potatoes, 4 s. Butter, 9 d. *per* lib; cheese, 3 d.; butcher-meat, 3½ d. A hen costs 10 d.; a chicken, 4 d.; a dozen eggs, 4 d. The wages of a male-servant, exclusive of victuals, are L. 9 a-year; of a female-servant, L. 3, and L. 3, 10 s. A day-labourer, in summer, 8 d. and in winter, 6 d.; a hay cutter, 1 s. 3 d.; a lint miller, 1 s. 4 d.; a tailor, 6 d. A male shearer L. 1, 6 s. during harvest, or 1 s. *per* day; a female 16 s. 8 d. during harvest, or 9 d. a-day. A rood of slater's work is from 16 s. 8 d. to L. 1; a rood of mason work from L. 1, 5 s. to L. 1, 10 s. A foot of thatching is 6 d. or 7 d. A ditcher receives from
8 d.

8 d. to 10 d. *per* rood, for a ditch of six feet. Hedges are cleaned, and young trees planted, at the rate of 10 d. or 1 s. a-day.

Ecclesiastical State.—The few following facts will shew the ecclesiastical state of Collace, as far as it is necessary to be exhibited in a work of this nature. The church, an old and indifferent fabric, stands on a rising ground, about a mile westward of Dunfinnan hill. The manse and offices, neat, handsome, and commodious, were built A. D. 1778, on a new site, nearer the church than the former manse, which is in the village of Collace. The stipend is 73 bolls victual, and L. 5 : 11 : 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Sterling, with a glebe of 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres. The names of the ministers, since the commencement of this century, are, Mr Smith; Mr Ramsay, settled A. D. 1713; Mr Faichney, 1739; Mr Kilgour, 1774; Mr Baird, 1778; Mr Macleish, 1783.

Poor.—In 1783, the poor's funds did not exceed L. 84; at present they are L. 141, 14 s. The poor are supported by collections in the church, mort-cloth money, and some feat-rents; the annual amount of all which may be L. 15 Sterling.

Quarries and Roads.—A quarry, in the village of Collace, was supposed, for many years, to have been exhausted; but workmen lately employed to explore it, found a bed of excellent free-stone; and appearances indicate abundance of the same valuable article in other parts of the parish. The great turnpike-road from Perth to Cupar traverses this parish, in an oblique direction. Other roads are repaired by statute-labour, converted into money, at the rate of 8 s. or 12 s. for every plough.

Antiquities.

Antiquities.—The most noted remain of antiquity, is Macbeth's Castle, on Dunfinnan hill, in the south-east corner of the parish. This remarkable hill is insulated, and of an oval form, with a flat and verdant summit. The ascent, from the village of Collace, on the north-west, is gradual; and there some vestiges of a winding road may still be traced. On all other sides, the hill is steep, and of difficult access. It is separated from a hill on the east, by a narrow valley, covered with verdure. The area on which the fort stood, being 168 yards in length, 100 in breadth near the east, and 55 near the west extremity, was anciently environed by a wall of stone, without cement. The entrance into the fort was at the north-east corner of the area. Tho' no trace of the fort now appears, yet, it is probable, that the foundation is entire, as the building was consumed by fire. It must, therefore, be the ardent wish of every antiquary, that this spot were thoroughly explored. Several years ago, some gentlemen, in digging a pit near the middle of the area, discovered pieces of the bones of animals, brick, and burnt corn. At a remote period, this was, no doubt, one of the stations whence signals, on any alarm, were made by fire. The story of the Usurper's defeat, flight northward, and death at Lumphanan, is known to every reader conversant in the history of Scotland.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

RESPECTING THE

CASTLE OF DUNSINNAN,

OR DUNSINANE,

And on the probability, that SHAKESPEARE, had collected on the Spot, the Traditions of the Country respecting Macbeth, and founded thereon his celebrated Drama.

By SIR JOHN SINCLAIR.

THE AUTHOR OF THE STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF SCOTLAND, happened, *anno* 1772, to take an excursion to Perthshire, and being accidentally led to visit the remains of Dunfinnan Castle, took a sketch of them, as they appeared at that time, and collected all the traditions respecting the history of Macbeth, that were current in the neighbourhood. The story purported, that Macbeth, after his elevation to the throne, had resided for 10 years at Carnbeddie, in the neighbouring parish of St Martin's, which the country people call *Carn-beth*, or Macbeth's Castle, and where the vestiges of his castle are still to be seen. During those times, witchcraft was very prevalent in Scotland,

land, and two of the most famous witches in the kingdom, lived on each hand of Macbeth, one at Collace, the other not far from Dunfinnan-house, at a place called the Cape *, Macbeth, taking a superstitious turn, he applied to them for advice, and by their counsel, he built a lofty castle, upon the top of an adjoining hill, since called Dunfinnan, which, in the Gaelic language, signifies “ *The hill of ants,*” implying the great labour and industry so essentially requisite for collecting the materials of so vast a building. It was by nature strong, as well as fortified by art, being partly defended by high outer rocks, and partly surrounded by an outer wall, which enclosed a considerable space of ground, for exercising the men, &c. There was also a fossé, which joined the wall and outer rocks, and a high rampart which environed the whole, and defended the castle, itself large and well fortified. From the top of the hill, there is an extensive view of above 50 miles every way, comprehending Fifeshire, the hills in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, Glen-Almond, Crieff, the hills in the neighbourhood of Blair-Athol, and Braemarr; Strathmore also and a great part of Angus are immediately under view. In short, there could not be a more commanding situation.

When Malcolm Canmore came into Scotland, supported by English auxiliaries, to recover his dominions from Macbeth *The Giant*, as the country people called him, he marched first towards Dunkeld, in order to meet with those friends who had promised to join him from the north. This led
him

* The moor where the witches met, which is in the parish of St Martin's, is yet pointed out by the country people, and there is a stone still preserved, which is called the *witches stone*. The moor is now planted, by William Macdonald, Esq; of St Martin's, the proprietor, and to whom also Carnbeth, or Carnbeddie, belongs; whose active zeal in promoting the improvement of the Highlands, will long be remembered, in that part of the kingdom, with much respect.

him to Birnam wood, where accidentally they were induced, either by way of distinction, or from some other motive, to ornament their bonnets, or to carry about with them, in their hands, the branches of trees. The people in the neighbourhood stated, as the tradition of the country, that they were distinguished in this situation by the spy, whom Macbeth had stationed to watch their motions. He then began to despair, in consequence of the witches predictions, who had warned him to beware "when Birnam wood should come to Dunfinane;" and when Malcolm prepared to attack the castle, where it was principally defended by the outer rocks, he immediately deserted it, and flying, ran up the opposite hill, pursued by Macdoff; but finding it impossible to escape, he threw himself from the top of the hill, was killed upon the rocks, and buried at *the Lang Man's Grave**, as it is called, which is still extant. For the purpose of giving a better idea of these circumstances, a slight and imperfect sketch, drawn up at the time, is annexed.

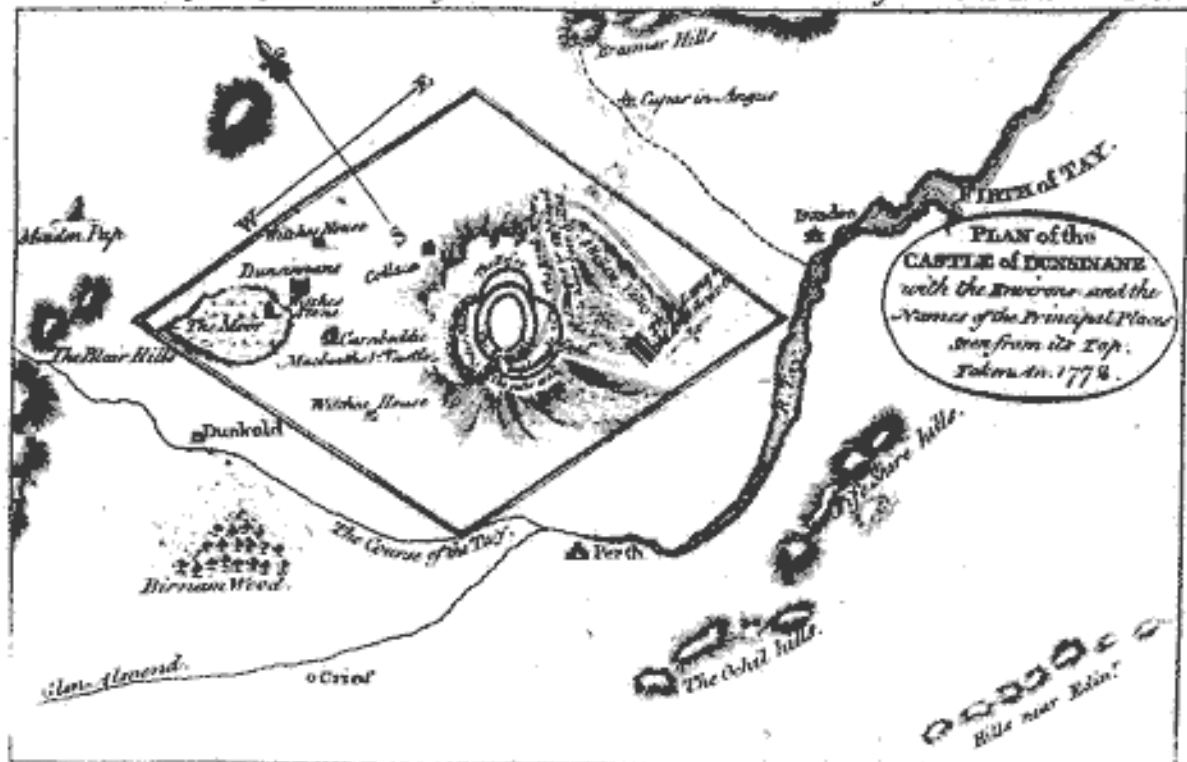
Such were the traditions in the neighbourhood of Dunfinnan Castle; in 1772; and the reader will naturally be struck, with the resemblance between them, and the celebrated play, which Shakespear founded on the history of Macbeth. There is every reason, indeed, to believe, that our great dramatist was upon the spot himself, and was inspired with such uncommon poetical powers, from having viewed the places, where the scenes he drew, were supposed to have been transacted. In Guthrie's History of Scotland, vol. viii. p. 358. it is stated, that, *anno* 1599, King James desired Elizabeth to send him, in that year, a company of English comedians, with which request she complied,

* It would be worth while to examine this grave, as some curious facts might be ascertained from it. It is proper to add, that not far from it is the road, where, according to the tradition of the country people, Banquo was murdered. See the annexed sketch.

ed, and James gave them a licence to act in his capital, and before his Court. "I have great reason," he adds, "to think that the immortal Shakespeare was of the number." And in the Statistical Account of Perth, vol. xviii. p. 522. we are told, that plays were actually exhibited in Perth, only a few miles from Dunfinnan, in 1589. It is extremely improbable, that the occurrences, as narrated by Shakespeare, and the traditions of the country, could have borne so strong a resemblance, unless he had gathered them upon the spot himself, or employed some other person for that purpose. The only material difference is, that, according to tradition, Macbeth threw himself from the top of a rock; but it was much more poetical, as narrated by Shakespeare, his falling by the hands of Macduff, whom he had so greatly injured †.

About the period alluded to, *anno* 1772, I took much pleasure in tracing the antiquities of Scotland, on the spot where the different occurrences happened; but was too young, (being then only about 18 years of age), to do justice to such interesting inquiries. I have been tempted, however, from the peculiar historical importance of the castle of Dunfinnan, to state the substance of the traditions I had collected respecting it; and perhaps it may not be improper to add, that I found the traditions regarding the battle of Luncarty, and other ancient events, much more distinct and accurate than is commonly imagined; and, in general, authenticated by the

† History narrates, that Macbeth was put to death at Lumphannan; but the tradition of the country is, that he was killed and buried in the neighbourhood of his own castle. It is singular that Buchanan, in his History, points out the story of Macbeth, as admirably calculated for the drama. Did Shakespeare take the first hint from, or give it to, the Scottish historian? The idea of Shakespeare having been in Scotland, is rendered still more probable, by the number of Scottish words and phrases made use of in his plays, and also from his parody on the well known lines in the Scotch ballad, beginning, "In days when our King Robert rang."



the remains of encampments, the ruins of castles, the vestiges of tombs, the appearance of mote-hills, or seats of justice, and the names of places, all affording concurring evidence of their authenticity.

The circumstances regarding the battle of Luncarty, in particular, were uncommonly minute and circumstantial. The encampments of the Scottish and Danish armies *, the place where Hay and his gallant sons resided, called Gullan, a farm opposite to Luncarty, the field they were ploughing at the time, the ford where they crossed the Tay, and the very spot where they stopped and animated their flying countrymen, &c. &c. were all pointed out, by old men in the neighbourhood, when examined by the Author, in 1772.

* The place where the Danish army had encamped, was, *anno* 1772, called Denmark.

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