

## UNITED PARISHES OF FOSSOWAY AND TULLIEBOLE.

PRESBYTERY OF AUCHTERARDER, SYNOD OF PERTH & STIRLING.

THE REV. PETER BRYDIE, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name is found written variously; formerly it was *Fossowhey*, *Fossoquhey*, and sometimes *Fossoquich*; at present it is often *Fossaway*;—but the more correct spelling is supposed to be *Fossoway*. The first of these modes of spelling favours the conjecture, that it is composed of two Gaelic words signifying the “desert of the deer.” *Tulliebole* is also thought to be of Gaelic origin, and to signify “the Poet’s hill.”

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The figure of the parish is very irregular. The river Devon forms one of its boundaries to the extent of about nine miles. The course which that river here follows is not unlike the form of a shepherd’s crook, having the long end in the low ground pointing westward in the direction of Stirling, and the other in the Ochil Hills, on the north, pointing nearly due west. The bend which the river thus makes is called the “Crook of Devon.” The lands within its curve, are, as respects the southern and greater portion of them, in the parish of Muckart, and the remainder in that of Glendovan. *Fossoway* is wholly on the outside of the curve, and stretches from it to the opposite boundary on the north, east, and south, to an extent varying from about two to five miles. Its greatest length from east to west is about 11 miles, and its greatest breadth about 10. Besides adjoining the two parishes already mentioned, it adjoins *Dunning* on the north; *Orwell* and *Kinross* on the east; *Cleish* and *Saline* on the south; and *Clackmannan* and *Dollar* on the west. It extends to within a few hundred yards of the Church of *Cleish* on the south-east, and to within about half a mile of that of *Glendovan* in the opposite direction.

*Topographical Appearances.*—*Fossoway* and *Tulliebole*, originally two separate parishes, were, it is supposed, united about the year 1614. The former consists of two extensive districts; the

one lying on the south side, and the other on the north side of the united parish. These, at the nearest points, are upwards of a mile distant from each other. The northern district comprehends, besides several farms of considerable extent, the baronies of Fossoway and Carnbo. It was once entirely in Perthshire, but the latter barony was, with the exception of one farm belonging to Stewart of Grandtully, annexed about a century and a half ago to the county of Kinross. This district contains a considerable portion of the Ochil Hills. These afford excellent pasture for sheep and cattle; while at the same time they furnish, in the intervening valleys, good soil for cultivation. The hills may vary in height from about 1000 to 1500 feet above the level of the sea. One of them, called Easter Downhill, presents a very pleasing appearance, especially when viewed from the south or west. It is of a conical shape, clothed with verdure to the top, and skirted with natural wood around the base, along which, in a deep ravine, the Devon pursues its winding course. At the bottom of this hill the bridge of St Serf, on what was the road to Perth by Dunning, till the present turnpike road was formed, less than thirty years ago, is still standing, though now much out of repair. The hill is of considerable height, and the view from its summit in clear weather is very extensive and varied. In respect of height and extent of prospect, however, it is surpassed by Innerdownie, which is the highest hill in the parish, and commands at once a view of the Forth and of the Tay.

The southern district of Fossoway is wholly in Perthshire. It consists of the barony of Aldie on the east; of the barony of Solsgirth and the lands of Blairngone on the west; and of the baronies of Gartwhynan and Pitfar in the middle. Here the wide valley, reaching from the Ochil Hills on the north to the hills of Cleish and Salive on the south, is divided by the Devon, between the parish of Fossoway and that of Muckart. The parish of Tulliebole, however, lying chiefly east of the curve formed by the river, extends over the whole breadth of the valley.

All of Tulliebole belongs to the county of Kinross. It includes the baronies of Tulliebole and Coldrain, and the farm of Briglands. Though the lands in it and the southern branch of Fossoway are low, compared with the hills on the south and north, yet comparatively little of them are flat. They rise into ridges of different heights, stretching from east to west, and thus form sloping banks more or less steep.

*Hydrography.*—Perennial springs of pure water abound throughout the parish. There is a petrifying spring on the lands of Devonshaw. But the most remarkable is that which was discovered fifteen years ago on the lands of Blairngone, which has erroneously been called “Dollar Water.” It has been found wonderfully efficacious in healing cuts, lacerations, and several other external injuries.

The following extract from a letter of Dr Thomson, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Glasgow, of date 1830, will show the analysis of the water and its properties :

“ Its specific gravity is 1.0109, and an imperial gallon of it contains the following ingredients :

Common salt,	5.87 grains.
Sulphate of soda,	170.99
Sulphate of alumina,	953.18
Dipersulphate of iron,	1753.10
Persulphate of iron,	141.55
Silica,	58.70

Grains, 3093.39

“ It is by far the strongest mineral water I ever heard of, an imperial gallon containing rather more than half a Troy pound of salts. It is too strong for internal use, but when diluted sufficiently with water, it might be of service in the numerous diseases for which iron and the sulphate of alumina are useful. As an external application, it would act powerfully as an astringent.”

The Devon, which rises in the Ochils, and, after a long and devious course, empties itself into the Forth, is the only current of water connected with the parish that deserves the name of “River.” There are, however, several other streams which have their rise either in the parish or on its boundary, and which, like the Devon, are well supplied with trout. The chief of these are the north and south Queichs and East Gairney, which run into Lochleven, and the West Gairney, which joins the Devon below the Caldron Linn.

*Cascades.*—To strangers, the great objects of attraction belonging to this parish are the Rumbling Bridge and Caldron Linn. These are so fully described in the Old Statistical Account, that it is deemed unnecessary to say much of them here. With respect to the former, however, it is proper to state, that, while the original bridge remains entire, there is now another bridge corresponding with the turnpike road passing that way, standing directly above it; and that the adjoining scenery is inspected with much greater convenience and effect than formerly, owing to the

formation of walks, which conduct the visitor in safety to the different points whence the most striking views are obtained.

*Mineralogy.*—There are whin and freestone quarries in several parts of the parish. In the west end of it there are lime rock, iron ore, and coal. At present three collieries are in operation. The colliery of Blairgone is of very long standing; the working of the other two commenced but recently. The work at the ironstone mine was, for a considerable number of years, till about two months ago, actively prosecuted. A mixture of copper is found in a rock near the Rumbling Bridge, but it appears that the proportion which the copper bears to the alloy is not sufficient to render the working of it advantageous.\*

*Soils.*—There is great diversity of soil in the parish. In some parts it is mossy, in others gravelly, in some places clayey, and in others loamy. Some of it is of good quality, while not a little of it is very inferior.

*Botany.*—There is a good deal to interest the botanist here. The following are some of the plants found in the district:—

<i>Circæa alpina</i>	<i>Rumex saxatilis</i>	<i>Vicia sylvatica</i>
<i>Veronica montana</i>	<i>Nymphæa alba</i>	<i>Hieracium umbellatum.</i>
<i>Gentiana campestris</i>	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	
<i>Rumex alpinus</i>	<i>Geranium pratense</i>	

There are some fine old trees in the parish, but none of them of very remarkable size. Within these few years, much of the larch fir has appeared to be in a back-going state. Till then, the cultivation of it was accounted profitable. Spruce and Scotch fir, ash, elm, plane, and beech thrive well. Oak, till of late years, was not much reared; where it has been tried, however, it promises well.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Till the year 1729, there was a church for each parish, and the minister officiated every third Sabbath in the church of Tulliebole. In that year, a new church was built in a more central situation, to accommodate the inhabitants of both parishes. The spot fixed on is on the south of the Devon, in the western part of Tulliebole, about a mile and a-half west from the former church of that parish, and about two miles south from the old church of Fossoway. Soon after the erection of the church in its present situation, the glebe and manse of Fossoway were sold, but the churchyard was retained; and in it, as well as in that of Tulliebole, some of the

\* The late proprietor of Briglands, Thomas Young, Esq., got it scientifically examined, and had in his possession some very neat seals made of it.

parishioners still bury their dead. But, though the manse of Old Fossoway thus ceased to be the residence of the minister, it has continued to be inhabited. It was lately thoroughly repaired and somewhat enlarged, and now forms a very commodious dwelling for a genteel family; it is pleasantly situated on the sunny side of the Ochils, near the bank of the Devon.

*Land-owners.*—The land-owners of this parish are numerous. Thirty-seven of them are severally possessed of property in the parish, amounting to upwards of L. 50 of yearly value. The principal proprietors are, Baroness Keith of Aldie; William Scott Moncreiff of Fossoway; Sir James W. Moncreiff of Tulliebole; and Captain William Patton of Devonshaw. The two last-mentioned have family mansions in the parish, the former being occasionally, and the latter constantly resident. The family residence of the former is the castle of Tulliebole, built in the year 1608.

*Antiquities.*—The Castle of Aldie, built in the sixteenth century, though for long uninhabited, is still standing, with its walls and roofing entire. The ancestors of the Duke of Athole had once a family residence on the lands of Blairngone, but no trace of it now remains. A portion of the lands, together with the colliery, however, still belongs to his Grace.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population by the return to Dr Webster in 1755 was	1765
by former Account,	1505
by census	1821, 1946
	1831, 1576
	1841, 1724, 881 males, 843 fem.

The increase of population of late years has been chiefly owing to the working of the ironstone mines, and the demand for labourers arising from agricultural improvement. About 700 reside in villages. Yearly average of births for the last seven years, 58; average of marriages, 10. No register of deaths is kept.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The land cultivated, or occasionally in tillage, may amount to 8690 Scotch acres; and the land which has never been cultivated, and which remains constantly waste or in pasture, to 5425. So much progress has already been made in adding to the cultivated land, that it is not supposed above 300 acres remain that would likely remunerate for the outlay required for its improvement. There are about 75 acres of undivided common, and about 600 under wood.

*Rent.*—The average rent of arable land in the parish is L. 1 per acre Scotch. The real rental of all the land in the parish amounts to about L. 9700. The average of grazing is about L.3, 15s. for each cow, and 4s. 6d. for each sheep per annum.

The general duration of leases is nineteen years.

The farm-houses, with very few exceptions, are good and comfortable dwellings. The fences are generally stone dikes; the thorn hedge is also partly used. The wire fence, with wooden posts, has of late been introduced to a considerable extent on the estate of Fossoway.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Towns.*—The nearest market and post-town to the east end of the parish is Kinross; and to the west end, Dollar. The former is six miles from the parish church, and the latter about five.

The principal villages are Blairngone and Crook of Devon. These, as stated in the former Account, are boroughs of barony. There is also a small village at Easter Gartwhynean.

*Means of Communication.*—The turnpike road from Dunfermline to Crieff intersects the parish from south to north, and that from Kinross to Alloa from east to west, passing near the parish church. Parallel with the latter, and about two miles to the north, another turnpike passes through the parish, being the road from Stirling to the eastern district of Fife. The turnpike road to Dunning also passes through a part of the parish. At one time a public coach from Perth to Glasgow, and another from Crieff to Edinburgh, travelled through the parish. But for some years, there has been no public conveyance to be had nearer than Kinross, Dunfermline, or Alloa. The parish does not thus enjoy great facility of communication with other parts of the country. The want of a post-office is felt to be a great inconvenience.

*Bridges.*—There are six bridges on the Devon connected with this parish. Of these four belong to turnpike roads, and two to county roads. All of them are kept in good condition.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—Till the opening of the Extension church at Blairngone, about five years ago, the parish church was the only place of public worship within the parish. Though it could not have been placed in a more central situation, yet it is above five miles from some of the extremities of the parish. It was built in 1806, and is commodious and in good repair. It affords accommodation for 525 persons, allowing 18 inches to each. The manse was built in 1781, repaired and a little enlarged in 1827,

and is in a good and comfortable state. The glebe is about 12 Scotch acres in extent, and may be valued at about 12s. per acre. The stipend is L. 70, 3s. 2½d., and about six chalders of victual, half meal, half barley, payable according to the fiars of the county.

The number of householders in the parish at the time of the last census was 372. Of these 309 belong to the Established Church; 59 to the United Secession Church; 2 to the Synod of Original Seceders; and 2 to the Roman Catholics.

In favourable weather, divine service is well attended at the Established Church. The number of communicants since the erection of the new parish of Blairngone in 1841 is upwards of 300; before that time, it was from 400 to 500. There are some contributions yearly for the General Assembly's schemes, and for the purpose of education in the parish.

The Extension church already mentioned was opened for public worship in the spring of 1838. It is situated in the west end of the parish, a little east from the village of Blairngone, and about four miles from the parish church. The ground on which it stands was given gratuitously by Mark Watt, Esq.—that gentleman, in addition to a handsome subscription, having generously made us a present of half-a Scotch acre of land. The church was used for some time as a preaching station, the minister of the parish officiating in it when his presence was required to administer the ordinance of baptism.

By the constitution of this church, agreed to at a meeting of the subscribers on 28th October 1839, the boundary between the proposed new parish and the parish of Fossoway was fixed; one article containing these words, in reference to this point, that the parochial territory of the church of Blairngone shall be "That part of the parish of Fossoway lying to the west of a line from the conflux of the Garney and the Devon, immediately by the east of the house of Barnhill, to the southern boundary of the parish." But, after this agreement, an attempt was unhappily made to extend the boundary much nearer to the parish church. This attempt, however, was successfully resisted, and the matter finally settled by the Presbytery, acting under a remit to them by the General Assembly at their meeting in December 1840, when they determined to hold by "the original boundary agreed upon by the subscribers." The population within that part of the parish of Fossoway thus assigned was, at the last census, 558, most

of whom are above four miles from the church of Fossoway. These, and the inhabitants of the adjoining districts of the parishes of Clackmannan, Dollar, and Muckart, form a population as numerous as the church of Blairngone can accommodate, it being seated for from 200 to 300.

The necessary steps having thus been taken, the present incumbent was ordained minister of Blairngone in autumn 1841. He holds a bond for L.60 per annum, payable from the seat-rents and church-door collections.

*Education.*—There are 4 schools in the parish. Of these, one is parochial, two are on the teachers' own adventure, and one is aided by a small sum raised by individual subscription. The branches taught are, Latin, English, writing, arithmetic, and practical mathematics. The parochial teacher has the maximum salary, house, garden, and a few acres of land. The land was purchased with vacant stipend, and a small sum borrowed from the poor's funds, for which the teacher pays interest.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of paupers in the parish is about 11. At present there are only eight on the roll, the average allowance to each of whom is about L.4, 7s. yearly. The funds for their support, and for occasional aid to others, arise from the collections at the parish church, interest of money, donations from heritors, and burying-ground sold in the church-yard. Many of the poor, but not all, manifest a reluctance to apply for parochial aid.

*Fairs.*—There are two fairs kept in the parish yearly, at which a few cattle and some small wares are exposed for sale.

*Inns, &c.*—There are 14 inns or public-houses in the parish. It appears that three would be sufficient for the accommodation of travellers. The increased number of these houses tends very much to deteriorate the morals of the people.

*Fuel.*—The fuel in general use in the parish is coal procured within the parish itself. Peats are also used, but to a small extent.

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