

intention of the benevolent donor, is annually expended in coal for the behoof of the industrious poor of his native parish. The farmers drive the coal from Perth free of expense.

February 1843.

PARISH OF TIBBERMORE.

PRESBYTERY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.

THE REV. WEIR TULLOCH, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name which is commonly given to this parish by strangers is Tibbermuir, and sometimes Tippermuir; but the proper name is undoubtedly Tibbermore; for we find it written in a charter granted by William the Lion, Tibbermorria; in Fordun's History, Tybbermore; and in a very ancient tombstone in the wall of the church, Tibbermire. This word signifies a *great well*, referring, in all probability, to a perennial spring that once issued from behind the church, and was long known by the name of "the Lady Well," but which has lately been carried away by the draining of the adjacent field.

Extent and Boundaries.—The parish is about six and a-half miles in length, and from one to three in breadth. It contains about 4700 Scots acres; and is bounded on the north by the Pow and the Almond, which separate it from Methven and Redgorton; on the east by the Tay and Perth; on the south by Aberdalgie and Forteviot; and on the west by Gask.

Topographical Appearances.—This parish lies behind the high ridge which bounds the north of Strathearn, and falls with a gradual declivity down to a level plain which is watered by the Pow and the Almond. The greater part of it, therefore, has a northern exposure. On the west there are several old plantations of Scotch fir, the wood of which is said to be of excellent quality. There is a considerable extent of uncultivated moor, and a peat-moss, from which the farmers on the barony of Cultmalundie have a right to cut turf for fuel.

The eastern portion of the parish is studded with a number of neat comfortable houses, the seats of resident proprietors, most of

which are surrounded with young thriving plantations, which add greatly to the beauty of the general landscape. But the most remarkable feature of the parish is a large plain or valley, which sinks down abruptly to a considerable depth below the surrounding country. It is about three miles long; and from a-quarter to three-quarters of a mile broad. On the south, north, and west, it is bounded by precipitous banks, rising from 50 to 100 feet high, while, on the east, it opens out into a level plain, which stretches onwards to the Tay. On digging a well into it lately, there was found beneath a thick bed of gravel, sand, and clay, a considerable depth of peat-moss. This fact, together with the general appearance of the banks, would almost seem to indicate that in some remote age it had been the basin of a fresh water lake. Now, however, it is the site of two of the most thriving establishments in the parish.

Hydrography.—The parish seems once to have contained several wells of considerable note. One of the most celebrated of these was situated in the eastern part of the parish, at a place called the "Hole of Ruthven," in the neighbourhood of Perth. The civil and ecclesiastical records of that city testify that this well was long the source of great annoyance both to magistrates and ministers. Its virtues were so famous, that neither the authority of the one, nor the admonitions of the other, although most rigorously applied, could deter the citizens from frequently trying their efficacy. The name of the place still remains, but the well has long since lost not only its fame, but its existence.

The river Almond bounds the parish on the north. It is described at full length in the accounts of the parishes of Methven and Redgorton. There is a stream of water taken off from this river, which runs through the parish. The dike or weir thrown across the river, at the point where this stream leaves it, is called "Low's Wark," and none can tell the origin of this name. We find from various indentures written upwards of three centuries ago, that the stream of water which issues from the Almond at "Low's Wark," was then, as it still is, called the "Mill-Lead," and that the family of Ruthven, with the town of Perth, and the proprietor of Balhousie, had mills upon it. Its great object seems, however, to have been to drive the mills of Perth, for it appears, from a charter of confirmation granted by James VI., 15th November 1600, that this aqueduct was regarded as belonging exclusively to the community of

Perth, although there can be no doubt that long before this the family of Ruthven and the Eviots of Balhousie had, by special grant or otherwise, acquired a right to mills upon the course of it. The community of Perth still possess their ancient rights over the "Lead," and a committee of the town-council perambulate its banks every year, to see that they are kept in proper repair. The utility of this Lead has been greatly extended in modern times. Instead of the three mills which it originally drove, it now affords sufficient water power to drive the machinery of Huntingtower bleachfield, the Ruthven mills and Ruthven printfield, in the parish of Tibbermore; and the Tulloch printfield, the Balhousie mills, and the Perth mills, in the parish of Perth.

Geology.—This parish, like most of the neighbouring, rests upon the red sandstone formation. In two or three places the sandstone is penetrated by trap dikes of considerable extent, where excellent quarries have been opened for making and repairing roads. The sandstone also is deemed of very superior quality, and has been quarried to a great extent. There are three quarries, which have been in operation for a number of years, and from which most of the stones used for building in Perth and the neighbourhood have been taken.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Historical events.—This parish has been the site of several historical events of no small importance; but, as most of them are rather national than local, they are to be found detailed at length in all our Scottish histories, and, therefore, it is not necessary to give any particular account of them in a work of this description. It was here that Gowrie, Mar, Lindsay, and the master of Glamis perpetrated that assault upon the liberty of James VI., which is commonly called the Raid of Ruthven. The castle where the King was first seized and for a time confined, is still standing and in considerable repair. It is now the property of General Cunningham, and was then called Ruthven, but now Huntingtower Castle. It was here that the Covenanters under Lord Elcho sustained a signal defeat from Montrose with his Irish auxiliaries. The raw untrained bands which had been hastily raised in Fife, Perth, and Angus to oppose Montrose, were encamped in the south of the parish on the night before the battle, where traces of this encampment are still in some places distinctly visible. There were indeed within these few years, men alive in the parish, who well remembered that it was

in their youth no uncommon thing for those engaged in trenching the ground in the neighbourhood to find gun bullets, broken spears, and many other memorials of this disastrous battle.

Land-owners.—Until lately, this parish was divided into two large baronies, Huntingtower and Cultmalundie, and, with the exception of about 500 acres, was entirely possessed by the Duke of Athole and the Earl of Kinnoul. The barony of Cultmalundie is still the property of the Earl of Kinnoul, who, besides this, has recently purchased several other properties in the parish, so that he now possesses nearly twelve-twentieths of the whole parish. He has no seat in the parish; but Dupplin Castle, his family residence, is in the immediate neighbourhood. The barony of Huntingtower was broken down into a number of small properties, and sold by the late Duke of Athole, upwards of thirty years ago. These properties were chiefly purchased by men who made their own fortunes, and were the founders of their own families. Those heritors who possess land in the parish of the yearly value of L.50 and upwards, besides the Earl of Kinnoul, are General Cunningham of Newton and Huntingtower; the Glover Incorporation, proprietors of Tullilum; Thomas Ritchie, Esq. of the Hill of Ruthven and South Black Ruthven; William Dron, Esq. of North Black Ruthven and Marlefield; the Rev. Dr Thomson of Ruthven Farm; William S. Turnbull, Esq. of Ruthven mills; Thomas Duncan, Esq. of Ruthven Field; Mrs Black of Law Grove; John Martin, Esq. of Newhouse; Thomas Millar, Esq. of Letham; James Macmillan, Esq. of Alexanderia; D. S. M'Lagan, Esq. of Ruthven House. Huntingtower bleach-field is the joint property of Robert Smythe, Esq. of Methven, and Sir John Richardson of Pitfour.

Parochial Registers.—Our parochial registers do not extend farther back than 1724, nor do they appear to have been kept with great regularity for a considerable time after that period. For the last thirty years, however, there has been a regular entry made of most of the births, deaths, baptisms, and marriages in the parish.

Antiquities.—Huntingtower Castle is a very ancient building, but it does not appear to have ever been a place of great strength. It is chiefly interesting as the seat of the Gowrie family, who long performed a conspicuous part in the business of the nation. Besides the Raid of Ruthven, and other public transactions connected with this castle, tradition has

preserved the memory of a private exploit which has contributed in no small degree to its renown. The story, as told in Pennant's Tour, is this, "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 off, as she thought, all possibility of retreat, hastened to surprise them. The young lady's ears 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 apologized for her unjust suspicion. The fair daughter did not choose to repeat the leap, but the next night eloped and was married." The place between the two towers is still familiarly known as the *Maiden's Leap*. This castle, with the adjoining barony, became the property of the Athole family by a marriage with the Tullibardine family, who had received it from James VI. after its forfeiture by the Gowrie Conspiracy. It is now a mere appendage to a small portion of the ancient barony, and is let to a baker, who has converted the lower flat into dwelling-houses, and the upper flats into granaries for wheat, &c.

Tibbermore was 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, the 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 now 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 baptized there, having, on the way home, been drowned in the Almond.

III.—POPULATION.

In 1841, there were in the parish 359 families, consisting of 814 males and 847 females, in all 1661, being an increase on the population of 1831 of 437. This increase is to be accounted for by the revival of Ruthven printfield, which had been, for a num-

ber of years, dormant, during which the population fell from 1634, which was its amount in 1821, to 1223, its amount in 1831.

Character and Habits of the People.—The employments of the people are very various, and their characters are in no small degree influenced by their respective avocations. They may be divided into three great classes,—agriculturists, bleachers, and printers. With the exception of about twenty farmers, the agricultural population consists of ploughmen and cottars. There is some reason to fear that these last named classes are neither so intelligent nor so moral as they were fifty years ago. The bothy system and the practice of our great landed proprietors accumulating on their estates great quantities of game, are daily producing havoc on the morals of our agricultural population. Migratory habits also operate most perniciously upon their general character. Most of them change their master and also their parish every year, so that it is scarcely possible to bring any of the usual means of religious instruction to bear with effect upon them.

The bleachers are perhaps the most moral and religious portion of our population. Many of them live and die in the place where they were born. A strong attachment exists betwixt them and their respected employer, who maintains an affectionate but very firm discipline among them. Their temperate habits, their constant employment, and their regularly paid, though by no means high wages, enable them to maintain their families in comparative comfort, and to give their children a respectable education; and the result of this is, that fewer cases of scandal and fewer instances of abject poverty are to be found among them than in any other class in the parish. The character and habits of our calico-printers are, I believe, very similar to those in other parishes where they are to be found.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—The parish contains about 4670 Scots acres. The whole is arable, and in a high state of cultivation, with the exception of about 200 acres, which are under wood, and about 150 acres covered with heath and peat-moss.

Rent of Land.—In the neighbourhood of Perth, there is some land let as high as L.5, 10s. per acre, while there is some in the parish as low as L.1. There are several farms let on a grain rent, which, of course, varies every year. On an average, the rent of the parish may be said to be from L.3 to L.1, 10s. per Scots acre. The valued rent of the whole parish is L.4921 Scotch

money; the real rent, as nearly as can be calculated, about L.10,700 Sterling.

Husbandry.—There is a considerable diversity of soil in this parish. Upon the banks of the Almond, it is a sandy loam; in the neighbourhood of Perth, it becomes stronger, and approaches to clay; on the higher grounds, it is light and thin, on a gravelly bottom; towards the west, there is some deep dry black land, of an excellent quality; but the greater proportion is on a tilly subsoil, which renders it naturally damp. Our farmers are all men of capital and intelligence, and in general manage their farms according to the most approved modern systems. Draining has already been carried to a great extent on the wet soils, and is still going on with great vigour. Turnip husbandry is universally followed on those soils which are fit for it; and the practice of resting the land, by allowing it to be two or three years in pasture, is now become very general. By these means the average produce is greatly above what it was twenty years ago. The gross value, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:—

Wheat,	. . .	L.4400	0	0
Pease,	. . .	960	0	0
Barley,	. . .	4116	0	0
Oats,	. . .	5883	0	0
Potatoes,	. . .	4185	0	0
Turnips,	. . .	2100	0	0
Hay,	. . .	3200	0	0
Pasture,	. . .	2100	0	0
Quarries,	. . .	600	0	0
Miscellaneous produce,		1360	0	0

Total yearly value of raw produce, L 28,904 0 0

Manufactories.—As early as 1774, Huptingtowerfield was formed for the purpose of bleaching linen cloth. This work was carried on with great spirit and success for forty years, by Messrs Richardson and Co., when it was let by the present proprietors, Sir John Richardson of Pitfour, and Robert Smythe, Esq. of Methven, to Messrs William Turnbull and Son. Under the energy and activity of the present lease-holder, the work has now become one of the first in Scotland. At present about 40 Scotch acres are covered with cloth. The quantity whitened annually is about a million and a-half of yards, besides from 80 to 100 tons of linen yarn for a power-loom factory in the neighbourhood. The number of people employed is about 150, of whom nearly one-third are women and boys.

Immediately below this work, on the same Lead, are the flour and barley-mills, the property of Mr Turnbull, the tacksmen of the bleachfield, at which a considerable amount of business is done.

Ruthven printfield occupies the next waterfall on the Lead. About sixty years ago, this waterfall was employed in turning an oil-mill, when Messrs Ross, Barland, Meliss, and Co. obtained a lease of the premises from the late Duke of Atholl, and erected upon it a bleachfield, which they carried on for a considerable time. They sold their lease to Messrs Young, Ross, Richardson, and Co., who soon afterwards became proprietors of the place, and converted it into a printfield. This business was carried on by them for many years with great success, and to a very great extent. From 1000 to 1200 people were constantly employed at it, who printed goods to the value of nearly half a million Sterling annually. At length this company resolved to wind up their extensive and very prosperous business, and to sell the whole of their premises; but, as it was some time before they could meet with a purchaser, the work lay dormant till 1830, when it was sold to the Messrs Duncan from Glasgow, the present proprietors. These gentlemen have revived the work, and are now carrying it on with great spirit. Nearly 2,000,000 of yards are printed by them, in every variety of style, for the home and foreign market. At no other field has the printing of mousselines de laine been carried on with greater success, or to a greater extent, than at Ruthven. About two-thirds of the whole are performed by block-printing, and the remainder by machine-printing. There are employed at this work 188 men, 67 women, and 113 children; among whom there are 5 drawers, 8 engravers, 19 cutters, and 123 printers. The average wages of the drawers are from L.1 to L.2, 10s.; of the engravers, from 15s. to L.1, 10s.; of the cutters, from L.1 to L.1, 10s.; of the printer, from L.1 to L.1, 15s. per week. This is, of course, when they are constantly employed, which unfortunately has not been the case for these some years past; although it is generally allowed by the men themselves, that employment has been more regular at Ruthven field than at any other field in Scotland.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Villages.—The villages of this parish are now nearly all swept away. At one time, there was a large village of cottars and pendiclars at Wester Cultmalundie, who used to send to the moor with their herd, no less than eighty cows. Of this village, four small cottages are all that now remain. There was once a considerable village around the church, with its malt-barn and public-house; but this also is gone, with the exception of one house,

now occupied by the church officer. There was also a village of some extent at the Hole of Ruthven, and there is still to be seen in the neighbourhood an old stone cross, where a regular market was wont to be held; but the village is now no more. The only villages in the parish at present, are those at the two public works, Huntingtower field and Ruthven field.

Means of Communication.—The roads in the parish are in general very good. The turnpike road to Crieff passes through it for about three miles, after which the line is continued to the west of the parish by a statute-labour-road, not much inferior to the turnpike. There is also a good statute-labour-road along the north of the parish to the new bridge of Almond, and it is intercepted from north to south by another excellent road. The roads are kept in good repair, and they are all of easy access from the principal farm-steadings and public works.

Ecclesiastical State.—The main body of the church is very ancient. It appears to have been built as early as 1632. The walls are very strong, and the whole fabric is in excellent repair.

In the year 1810, the Ruthven Field Company were permitted to build an aisle to the north of the church for the accommodation of their work-people. This aisle was purchased by the heritors in 1835 for L.120, when about L.100 more was laid out in repairs on it and the rest of the church. The aisle is nearly as large as the church, and they both together contain about 600 sitters. This was nearly the legal amount of accommodation at that time; but the population, and also the church-going habits of the people have increased so much since, that every seat is occupied, and there is a constant demand for more. A considerable number of families reside within a mile and a-half of Perth, which is fully three miles from the parish church. Hence many of them find church accommodation in Perth. The church is planted very near the centre of the parish, and must have been commodiously situated for the population when it was built. The erection of the public works, however, has removed the great body of the people to a considerable distance, so that the majority of the hearers travel from two to three miles to church. There is no Dissenting place of worship in the parish; but there are two or three in the immediate vicinity, and there are in the parish about 70 families not connected with the Established Church.

The manse was built in 1824 for the sum of L. 735. The of-

fices are in good repair, and the accommodation very ample. The stipend is 17 chalders, one-half barley and one-half meal. There are about 10 acres of glebe land, including the garden and the ground occupied by the manse and offices. The land is worth about L. 2, 10s. per acre.

Education.—There are two schools in the parish, viz. the parochial school, in the neighbourhood of the church, and another at Ruthven field. The parochial school is taught by an assistant teacher, who is allowed a small salary by the heritors, and all the fees. The schoolmaster has retired, being allowed to retain the school-house, salary, and other emoluments. The school is attended, on an average, by about 40 children. The school at Ruthven field, with the exception of a free school-house, is entirely an adventure school. Mr Duncan, the master of the work, guarantees L. 50 to the teacher, should the fees not amount to so much, but the fees are supposed to be rather above than below that sum. This school is attended by about 60 children through the day, and nearly as many in the evening. One great drawback to the education of this and many other parishes, is the early age at which children are permitted to enter public works. No one ought to be permitted to receive into his service any young person without a certificate from his minister, testifying that he can read the Scriptures with fluency, and write so as at least to be able to sign his own name.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—There are about 20 regular paupers on the roll, besides several occasional, who require assistance to pay their house rent and to procure coals in winter. The regular paupers receive from 4s. to 12s. per month, besides house-rent and coal-money. The funds from which they are supplied are raised by assessment and church-door collections. The assessment is levied only from the heritors and farmers, and amounts to about L. 70, and the church-door collections average nearly L. 50 annually.

Ale-houses.—There are 6 public-houses in the parish, which is at least 4 more than there ought to be; but although it has been tried, it has not hitherto been found practicable to lessen their number.

Fuel.—Coal is the principal article employed for fuel, which is brought to Perth in ships from Newcastle and the Fife collieries. There is a large peat-moss in the north-west of the parish, from

which a considerable number of peats are dug every year. Brushwood, also, is eagerly bought up by the people for the same purpose.

February 1843.

PARISH OF DUNBLANE.

PREBYTERY OF DUNBLANE, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.

THE REV. WILLIAM MACKENZIE, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—DUNBLANE is supposed to take its name from St Blane, a Culdee, and Holme Hill, an eminence or dun overlooking the cathedral.

Extent, &c.—The extent of the parish is about nine miles in length, by six in breadth. It is bounded by the parishes of Lecropt, Logie, Blackford, Muthill, Comrie, and Kilmadock. Its situation at the western termination of the Ochill range, and reaching to the "braes of Doune," an offshoot of the Grampians, renders it, especially around the "city" of Dunblane, well sheltered from the east wind; the climate is consequently found to be salubrious to persons who suffer in an eastern exposure. Its position in the centre of Scotland exempts it equally from the damp of the west, and the cold of the east wind.

Mineral Well.—The mineral well of Dunblane, two miles distant from the town, was casually discovered in 1814, and for a time, being deemed more mild and safe, rivalled the well at Airthrey. The concourse of strangers promised to restore to Dunblane the standing it had lost by the fall of Prelacy and loss of its bishop. The inhabitants used every effort to encourage this; but the refusal to do or permit what was necessary to render the discovery available, has kept Dunblane far behind its rival,—at which now has sprung up the beautiful and prosperous village of the Bridge of Allan.

The analysis of the mineral spring, by John Murray, M. D., gave the following results: In a pint of water there are,

Muriate of soda,	24. gr.
of lime,	18.
Sulphate of lime,	3.5
Carbonate of lime,	0.6
Oxide of iron,	.17