

PARISH OF KINCLAVEN.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.

THE REV. HENRY HENDERSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE word Kinclaven seems to be derived from the three Celtic words, *Caen*, a head or headland; *Cil* or *Kil*, a church or churchyard; and *avon*, a flowing stream or river,—which is an etymology perfectly descriptive of the local circumstances on the north-east corner of the parish.

Extent, Boundaries, &c.—The parish is of an irregular oblong form, and may be nearly 5 miles in length, and may average 2 miles in breadth. The superficial extent may be estimated at 10 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the Tay dividing it from Caputh; on the east and south, by the same river dividing it from Cargill; on the south-west and west, by the parishes of Auchtergaven and Little Dunkeld. A ridge of elevated ground stretches through the middle of the parish from the Castle of Kinclaven on the north-east to the village of Arntully, on the south-west; and from this ridge, the fields lie in an easy descent towards the Tay on the north and south. Seen from the higher grounds on the Cargill side of river, this parish has a very agreeable appearance, from the intermixture of farm-houses and cottages with the thriving plantations and oak coppices that are scattered over its surface.

Climate.—Judging from the healthy state of the inhabitants, the climate must be considered highly salubrious. There are many instances of very aged persons, who have spent their lives in this parish in the enjoyment of a course of good health. This may, no doubt, be partly owing to their temperate habits and their out-door occupations; but there can be no doubt that the situation of the parish, washed as it is by the rapid course of the Tay on its northern and southern boundaries, contributes also to the general health of its inhabitants. On the eastern corner of

the parish, the air is peculiarly mild and temperate, owing partly to the drier nature of the soil, and partly to the shelter afforded by the Meiklour woods, and the oak coppices on the neighbouring eminence called the Court Hill.

Hydrography.—At the eastern extremity of the parish, the Tay is joined by the Isla, which, descending from the lower range of the Grampians, flows to the westward through the fertile vale of Strathmore, until it runs into the Tay. In rainy weather, these rivers, after their junction, still retain, for a considerable space, their peculiar appearance; the Tay, on the one side, being clear, while the Isla, on the other side, is thick and muddy. There are several small lakes in the parish, in which pike, perch, and very large eels are found.

About eighty years ago, in consequence of an extensive flood from the Highland mountains, the Tay was swollen to a great height, and forced out to itself a new channel on the northern side of the parish; for instead of flowing in a circuitous course along the south side of the farm of Haugh of Meikleour, then a peninsula, it burst through the narrow isthmus in a straight form and course, and completely separated that farm from the parish of Caputh to which it belongs. The old course of the river was about three miles, whereas its new course does not exceed half a mile in extent. Although the old bed has now filled up to a considerable extent, and in some places affords excellent pasture, or has even been put under crop, yet in great floods it is also covered with water, which sometimes ascends so far up on the farm, as to assume the appearance of a large lake. In ordinary seasons, the pools in the old bed of the river are much frequented by wild ducks, and other water fowl. It may be mentioned that it is this farm of Haugh of Meiklour, which in large maps is designated the "Bloody Inches," but no satisfactory origin of the name can now be assigned.

Botany.—The plants peculiar to the different kinds of soil are also to be found here, in the spots where these soils prevail. On the low banks of the Tay, some alpine plants may be met with, supposed to have been brought down by the river. All kinds of forest trees seem to thrive remarkably well, where the soil is at all congenial. There are some splendid specimens of fine oaks, ashes, plane, beech, limes, and firs of various kinds, to be seen in the policy grounds of Meiklour, betwixt the church of Kinclaven, and the ruins of the old castle.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—At no very distant period, there were several resident proprietors in the parish. Their mansion houses have now disappeared; but the situation of these houses is still strongly marked out by the fine old yews, and other large trees, which then surrounded their dwellings. At present all the proprietors are non-resident, and taken in the order of their valued rent, they are as follows: viz. The Earl of Mansfield, L. 1296, 8s. 1d.; Major Richardson, L. 1100; Sir William D. Stewart, Bart., L. 840; Baroness Keith and Nairn, L. 466, 6s. 1d.; Duke of Athol, L. 299, 5s. 10d.; total, L. 4002 Scots.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers, consisting of six volumes, commence in 1725, and do not appear to have been kept with sufficient care,—several of the volumes being a good deal torn, and the writing defaced. It is to be regretted that parents are not sufficiently sensible of the importance of registering the births and baptisms of their children. Among the Dissenters, especially, great negligence in this respect still prevails; although, to induce them to do so, it has been the practice, during several years, to exact no fees for such registrations.

Antiquities.—The royal castle of Kinclaven, now in ruins, is the only object interesting to the antiquarian in this parish. It stands in a beautiful and picturesque situation, on an eminence above the Tay, and immediately opposite to the mouth of the Isla. It is said to have been built by Malcolm Canmore, and continued to be occasionally occupied by the royal family during several centuries, after it was erected. Various charters granted by the Scottish kings are still in existence, that are dated from this royal residence.

One of the chapters in the well-known metrical history of Sir William Wallace is partly devoted to a description of the manner in which “he won Kinclaven.” It is related by Holinshed that, during the wars arising out of the rival claims betwixt Bruce and Baliol for the Scottish throne, this castle was occupied by an English garrison, who, proving troublesome neighbours to the Highland barons, were surprised by them, while off their guard; and the castle having been taken, was dismantled so far as that it could no longer be occupied as a place of strength. The Duke of Athol possesses the title of keeper and constable of the royal castle of Kinclaven, and as such receives a small sum annually from Baro-

ness Keith, the noble proprietrix thereof, in name of constabulary duty.

III.—POPULATION.

Like many other agricultural parishes, the population is on the decrease.

In 1755, by Dr Webster's account, the population was	998
In Sir John Sinclair's in 1790,	1150
In 1801, by census,	1035
In 1811,	1066
In 1821,	986
In 1831,	890
In 1841,	878

This decrease in the population, since the beginning of the present century, has been owing to emigration, to the enlargement of farms, and more recently to the removal of a number of families to the thriving village of Stanley, in the immediate neighbourhood, with the view of finding employment for their children at the extensive cotton factory established there.

The average number of births during the last seven years, may be	16
of deaths,	10
of marriages,	8
The number of males at last census,	408
of females,	470
The number of persons under 15,	327
betwixt 15 and 30,	225
30 and 50,	188
50 and 70,	105
upwards of 70,	33

The number of inhabited houses in the parish is 194; of uninhabited houses, 8.

There is one insane person, and one fatuous.

In regard to language and personal appearance, there is nothing peculiar in the inhabitants of this parish. The prevailing names are Duncan, Watson, Young, and Galletly. In some families there seems to be a very strong hereditary attachment to their native soil, several of the farms and pendicles having descended from father to son, from time immemorial. The natural consequence is, that they are closely connected by intermarriages, especially the Dissenters.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

The state of industry in the parish may be estimated from the occupations of the male inhabitants, as ascertained at the last census: Farmers and pendiclors, 62; agricultural labourers, 72; weavers, 38; fishermen, 6; wrights, 10; tailors, 4; masons, 5; smiths, 4; shoemakers, 5; publicans, 2; grocers, 2; boatmen, 2;

millers, 1; wood forester, 1; gamekeeper, 1; schoolmasters, 2; sawyers, 2; thatcher, 1; ministers, 2.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—The whole superficial extent of the parish may amount to 6400 imperial acres, of which 3900 are arable; 800 in moorland or improvable pasture; 1500 under wood, of different kinds, and the remainder in lakes or moss. The valued rent of the parish amounts to L.4002 Scots. The real rental is about L. 4800, including fishings and cuttings of wood.

Rent of Land.—The rent of land varies from 15s. to L.2, 10s. per acre, according to soil and situation. Two-thirds of the arable ground being upon an impervious subsoil of red till or mortar, a considerable extent has been furrow-drained to great advantage; the other third is on sand and gravel, with some rich haugh or alluvial soil on the banks of the Tay.

Leases.—The leases are for the period of fifteen or nineteen years; and on several of the farms the rent is calculated by the fiars of the county.

Farm-Buildings.—Several excellent and commodious steadings have been erected during the last twenty years, especially on the Arntully estate, where some of them are equally substantial and ornamental.

Live-Stock.—The cattle are of a mixed breed. Greater attention is now paid by all the farmers to their stock of cattle. On some farms, Ayrshire cows have been introduced, along with bulls of the Teeswater breed, so that several fine-looking herds of cattle may be seen in different parts of the parish. Till of late years, the horses were rather small in size; but, by holding out encouragement for Clydesdale stallions to travel in the district, the stock is now much improved in size and strength.

Wages.—The wages of common ploughmen vary from L.10 to L. 14, with the usual allowance of oatmeal and milk, viz. 6½ bolls of oatmeal, and a Scotch pint of sweet milk per day. The female servants receive from L. 4, 10s. to L. 6. Day-labourers are paid at the rate of from 7s. to 10s. per week. Women engaged in outdoor work get 8d. in summer, and 6d. in winter, without victuals.

Rotation of Crops.—The rotation of crops on the different farms is adapted to the nature of the soil. The five-years course is that which is generally in practice on light soils, viz. 1. green crop, that is, potatoes or turnips, either with dung or bone-dust; 2. barley and grass seeds; 3. hay; 4. pasture; 5. oats. This

course is found to succeed remarkably well, especially if a little manure is given to the ground on sowing the barley or grass seed. The good effects of doing so are very visible on the succeeding crops of this rotation.

Produce.—On the clay soils, fine wheat is raised at about eight or nine bolls per imperial acre; and as the tenants of such farms depend chiefly thereupon, they regulate their rotation and management accordingly. On other farms, barley and oats are chiefly raised, producing from five to eight bolls per acre. Much less barley is now sown than formerly, oat-straw being greatly preferred for feeding cattle. A great extent of potatoes is annually planted for the London market. It seems to be upon these, and upon fat cattle, that the farmers now depend for their remunerating prices. Turnip husbandry is much cultivated; and, if raised from bone-dust, the one-half of the crop is consumed by the cattle in the byres or cattle sheds, and the other half is eaten on the ground by sheep. The rearing of horses for sale is now much less attended to, owing chiefly to the want of due encouragement from the increased travelling by railways.

Improvements.—Very extensive improvements have recently been made on the estate of Arntully, and are still going on. A sum of nearly L. 4000 has been spent by Sir W. D. Stewart in trenching and improving 284 imperial acres of moorland; and it is gratifying to remark that the crops of potatoes, wheat, &c. that have been raised, are such as promise to remunerate the proprietor for his great outlay. Embankments at different places along the Tay on the property of Baroness Keith are at present in progress; partly for the purpose of improving the scenery, and partly to protect the fields against the sudden and sometimes destructive inundations that take place, after extensive meltings of the snow on the Highland mountains.

Plantations.—Several plantations of common fir are found in different parts of the parish. One of these on the Kinclaven estate was lately cut down, and although growing on very inferior soil, brought upwards of L. 1 per acre per annum during its growth. It is to be regretted that the larch plantations that have been formed, during the last twenty or twenty-five years, have nearly all failed, from the effects of that inexplicable disease which has appeared so generally to attack the larches planted about that period. On the Taymount estate, twenty acres have recently been cut down in a state of entire decay. There are many thriving and

valuable oak coppices on the different properties, which are cut down every twenty or twenty-five years.

Fisheries.—The salmon fishings are highly valuable at several stations on the Tay, particularly at Ballathie, and below the celebrated Linn of Campsie. In the early part of the season, this latter station is one of the best on the upper part of this fine river. The angling on the Tay for several miles below the junction of the Isla has long been celebrated, and is noticed as such in the late Sir Humphry Davy's "Salmonia." The salmon are nearly all sent to Perth for the London market.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Markets.—Perth may still be regarded as the market-town, to which the inhabitants of this parish chiefly resort, both for the disposal of their agricultural produce, and for the purchase of their clothes, merchandise, and other articles of domestic economy. It may be mentioned, however, that, since the neighbouring village of Stanley has so much increased in size and population, shops of an improved description have been opened there, and a considerable portion of that mercantile business is now transacted at Stanley, which used formerly to be done in Perth.

In one respect, the recent increase of the village of Stanley has been of great benefit to the farmers and pendiclers in its immediate neighbourhood, by affording them a ready and convenient market for the daily sale of their milk, which is by far the most advantageous way of disposing of the produce of the dairy.

Villages.—At a former period, there were several small villages in this parish, of which the sites are now known only by the trees by which they were adorned. The village of Arntully, however, still remains, of which rather a graphic and ludicrous description is given in the former Statistical Account. It is now greatly diminished in size and population, and, in a few years, will, in all probability, also disappear. Its inhabitants are all linen weavers, who occupy a small portion of ground sufficient to maintain a cow, and produce meal and potatoes for their families, and who receive their webs from agents employed by the manufacturers of Cupar-Angus, Blairgowrie, Newburgh, and other places.

Means of Communication.—There are three principal roads which traverse the parish, and meet in a triangular form. One, on the west side, leading from Perth to the boat of Caputh, and kept in an excellent state of repair; another, passing along the south-eastern side of the parish, from the boat of Kinclaven to the

road previously mentioned, and joining it near Stanley; and a third road, formed within these few years, and running through the northern side of the parish, from the ferry boat to the Perth and Caputh road, and intended to be carried straight forward until it joins the Dunkeld road, near Murthly Castle. If this third line of road were, by a branch, extended over to Bankfoot, in the parish of Auchtergaven, which might be done at no great expense, a direct and easy line of communication would then be opened up betwixt that populous part of the country and the towns of Blairgowrie, Coupar-Angus, and other places in the valley of Strathmore, by the boat of Kinclaven, as also to the fertile district of Stormont by the boat of Caputh. The first of these roads is turnpike; the other two are statute labour roads.

Post-Town.—Perth may be regarded as the post-town for the eastern part of the parish, by means of a runner three times a week from the Bridge of Isla. A sub-office to Perth and Dunkeld has recently been established at Stanley, which is more convenient for the inhabitants of the western part.

Bridges.—At Kinclaven Ferry, there is a passage boat, on the same construction as those used at Logierait and Caputh. The length of the chain here is 136 yards, and that the boat, although loaded, may effect the passage in five minutes, even when the river is not more than one foot in depth,—such is the buoyancy imparted to the boat or flying bridge, by the mode and principle of its construction.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is most inconveniently situated for the bulk of the population, being at the eastern extremity of the parish, while the greater portion of the people reside at the distance of three or four miles towards the west, or south-west. It is also in a very indifferent state of repair, so that it is hoped the heritors will soon erect a new one in a more central situation. The present church contains accommodation for 320 sitters, and the sittings are all free. In the east end of the church, there is a large monument, erected to the memory of Alexander Campbell, Bishop of Brechin, who is stated on the monument to have been “the Laird of Kerco,” in this parish. He died in February 1608. The inscription, now scarcely legible, makes mention of the marriage of his two only daughters,—the “elder to Sir John Hubleton of Lerwick, and the younger to the Laird of Weem.” Keith, in his *History of the Scottish Bishops*, blames this prelate for having “alienated most part of the lands

and tithes of the bishopric to his chief and patron, the Earl of Argyle, retaining for his successors scarce so much as would be a moderate competency for a minister in Brechin." The church bell has long been celebrated in this neighbourhood for the loudness and mellowness of its tones. There are upon it the two following inscriptions, viz. "Joannes Bourkerhous me fecit;" and "John Young of Touchet-hillocks gifted me to the kirk of Kinclaven in September 1656;"—Touchet-hillocks is the name of a small hamlet, now forming part of the farm of Innernytie.

Manse, Glebe, &c.—The manse was built in 1802, and received repairs and additions in 1830, so that it now forms an ample and commodious dwelling-house. The offices are also in good order. The manse, church, and church-yard, are all very beautifully situated on a rising ground above the Tay, which is here a fine river of about 120 yards broad, flowing in a full and majestic stream through the richly adorned policy grounds and woods of Meikleour.

There are eleven acres of glebe, which may be worth L.16 or L.18 per annum. The stipend is as follows, viz. L.225, 14s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Sterling, and 88 bolls 3 firlots 2 pecks 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lippies of oatmeal, and 19 bolls 1 firlot 3 pecks 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lippies of barley, amounting on an average to about L.275 annually. There is no allowance for communion elements, as the teinds are exhausted and surrendered.

The number of communicants at the sacrament generally amounts to 180. There are 86 families, including 413 individuals, belonging to the Established Church, and 96 families, including 465 individuals, who belong to the United Secession. It may also be mentioned, that, within these few months, three Roman Catholic families have been brought to the parish, as servants to the Rev. Mr Mackay, the clergyman of the Roman Catholic church in Perth, who has obtained in lease a farm of seventy acres on the Arntully estate, which he is improving at great expense.

Ecclesiastical History.—It appears, both from authentic ancient records, and from the old charters and title deeds of the present patron, that, at a very remote date, anno Domini 1260, the teinds of this parish were appropriated, with certain deductions, and under certain obligations, to the maintenance of the precentor in the cathedral church of Dunkeld; and also that this arrangement continued with incidental alterations until the period of the Reformation. One of these obligations was, that the precentor should find both a chaplain and a vicar to officiate in the parish church.

During several years subsequent to the Revolution, this and the other parishes of the presbytery of Dunkeld were annexed to the presbytery of Perth. It is only on the 29th October 1706, that the Dunkeld records state, that the ministers of said presbytery met for the first time after their disjunction from the presbytery of Perth, and "that Mr Alexander Glass, minister at Kinclaven, was, by a plurality of voices, chosen moderator." This Mr Alexander Glass was the father of Mr John Glass, the celebrated founder of the religious denomination called after his name, and whose history is familiar to every one acquainted with the ecclesiastical transactions of the period in which he lived. Mr Alexander Glass was succeeded in 1725 by Mr James Fisher, of whom we shall afterwards speak; and, on his deposition, he was succeeded in 1742 by Mr James Bishop, who, dying in 1774, was succeeded in 1775 by Mr John Scott. At his death, in 1800, Mr Robert Keay succeeded as minister of this parish, and was, in 1811, translated to the Canongate Chapel in Edinburgh, but, in a few years, returned to the West Church Parish in Perth, where he died in 1819. Mr Keay was succeeded at Kinclaven in 1812 by Mr Robert S. Walker, the present respectable minister of Longforan, to which he was translated in 1822; and, in the following year, he was succeeded by the writer of the present article.

This parish is rather remarkable as being one of the original seats of the Secession. The Rev. James Fisher, minister of the parish, was the son-in-law of the Rev. Ebenezer Erskine, and warmly espoused his cause. In the session records, under date 8th October 1732, the following short notice occurs: "Service here this day by Mr Ebenezer Erskine, minister of the Gospel at Stirling;" and on the Tuesday following, Mr Erskine opened the Synod at Perth. On that occasion, he preached the sermon which was the cause of the proceedings against him in the ecclesiastical courts, which terminated in the Secession. The kirk-session of this parish seems to have taken a zealous interest in all these proceedings against him and his reverend coadjutors and brethren, many protestations and resolutions relative thereto being inserted in the records; and on the 25th October 1736, they formally resolved to adhere to the Associate Presbytery; "and upon a leet, they made choice of Thomas Watson, as their ruling elder, to attend the meetings of the Associate presbytery for the ensuing half-year." The minutes of session subsequent to July 1738 un-

til the period of his ejection in 1741, are all in the neat and distinct hand-writing of Mr Fisher. From all accounts, he seems to have been a man of talent, intelligence, and worth. His exposition of the Assembly's Catechism is still deservedly held in high repute. It is rather a remarkable circumstance, however, and well fitted to convey an instructive lesson of mildness and moderation in these days of ecclesiastical strife, that, in a few years, Mr Fisher was not in communion with his old flock, whom he had been instrumental in carrying off from the Established Church; for, while he attached himself to that party in the Secession who were denominated Burghers, they chose to connect themselves to the Anti-burgher party. Under the faithful ministry of his successors, Messrs Blythe and Pringle, the Secession Church in this parish continued to flourish, and has long been one of the most prosperous country congregations belonging to that body. In addition to those belonging to this parish, it is understood that they have always drawn a considerable portion of their members and hearers from the neighbouring parishes of Little Dunkeld, Auchtergaven, Redgorton, and Caputh. The Rev. David Young is their present pastor, having been elected two years ago on the demise of the late Rev. James Pringle, who had been minister of the congregation upwards of fifty years. He was, in all respects, a good man, and, emphatically, "a lover of peace."

Education.—There are two schools in the parish, one parochial and the other unendowed. The average number of scholars attending the parochial school may amount to 40. The salary is the maximum. The branches of education taught, and the school fees are as follows, viz. English reading, 2s. 6d.; writing, 3s.; arithmetic, geography, and preceding branches, 3s. 6d.; book-keeping and preceding, 4s.; for practical mathematics, Latin, and preceding, 5s. In 1833, the heritors expended L.200 in erecting a neat and commodious school-room, and in making a thorough repair on the schoolmaster's dwelling-house, which now contains much more than the legal accommodation. There is also a good garden attached to the school-house. The unendowed school is situated in the village of Arn-tully, in the west end of the parish. The average number attending the school may be estimated at 50. It is principally supported by the Dissenters, who are numerous in that part of the parish. Parents, in general, seem to be fully sensible of the benefit of giving their children all the schooling which they can afford;

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of paupers on the roll is 6. At present, there are only 4, and all of them residing in other parishes, although their settlement happens to be in this. It may therefore be stated as a remarkable fact, that there is not a single pauper resident in this parish. If we cannot boast of much wealth, we are thus happily ignorant of the evils and miseries of pauperism. The usual monthly allowance to a pauper varies from 4s. to 10s. according to circumstances; and at Martinmas, each pauper receives 5s. additional for the purchase of their winter coals. There has never been any legal assessment for the poor; and during the last twenty years, it has been only once found necessary to solicit a small voluntary assessment of L.16, which was chiefly occasioned by the expense of a law-suit relative to the aliment of a pauper. Several of the heritors are, however, attentive to present donations from time to time, especially Baroness Keith, who gives L. 2, 2s. annually. The funds that are placed at the disposal of the kirk-session may average, from collections at church-doors, L. 18; from dues for mortcloth, proclamations, &c. about L.6; in all L.24 per annum, from which sum must also be paid the salaries of the precentor, church-officer, and various other claims. The above statement is highly creditable to the frugality, as well as to the provident and independent spirit of the parishioners. Even widows left with several helpless children have refused to accept of regular aid offered to them by the kirk-session, but have expressed great thankfulness in getting the fees paid for “the winter’s schooling to the bairns.” Miss Stewart of Newbigging in this parish, who died last year, bequeathed a legacy of L.20 to the poor’s fund; and instructed her executors, after paying several other legacies, to give the residue of her free estate, supposed to amount to L.900, to that excellent institution the Perth Infirmary.

Inns or Ale-houses.—There are two inns or ale-houses; one near the Secession meeting-house, intended for the accommodation of the more remote attendants at that congregation; the other at the ferry boat, for the use of travellers in general; and which is also frequented by gentlemen from a distance, whom the excellent salmon angling in its immediate neighbourhood attracts to this part of the country, during the summer months.

Fuel.—Coals, both Scotch and English, are brought from Perth, or purchased at a trifling additional expense in Stanley, at a depot recently established there. Firewood may also be obtained

on reasonable terms at the sales of decayed timber, brushwood, &c. that frequently take place. The tenants on the property of the Duke of Athole are entitled to a certain quantity of peats from the moss of Craigleith, on the western boundary of the parish. It is understood that the parochial minister has also this privilege; but during many years, it has not been exercised, owing to the distance of the moss, and the trouble and expense of preparing the peats.

June 1843.

PARISH OF COUPAR-ANGUS

PRESBYTERY OF MEIGLE, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS.

THE REV. PATRICK J. STEVENSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Extent and Boundaries.—THE parish of Coupar-Angus lies in the centre of Strathmore. By far the larger portion of it belongs to the county of Perth; but the original part of the town being in Forfarshire, the parish takes its distinctive name from that county. It is bounded on the north-west, by the parish of Bendochy, from which it is separated by the river Isla; on the north-east, by Meigle; on the south-east, by Kettins; and on the south-west, by Cargill. Its length is about 5 miles, stretching from north-east to south-west. Its breadth varies from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The parish is divided, in the direction of north-east, by a ridge of some height; along which the road to Aberdeen runs; and which commands a splendid view of the Sidlaw, (or perhaps Sudlaw,) hills on the south; the lower range of the Grampians on the north, with the distant summits of Ben More, Schihallion, and Ben Voirlich.

The river Isla forms the north-west boundary of the parish. It is supposed to take its name from Yllif, a flood. In the twelfth century, Giraldus Cambrensis calls it Hylef. This supposition derives some corroboration from the whole of the haugh-land, which is of considerable extent on the south side of the river, having been formerly liable to be overflowed. After continued rain,