

## III.—POPULATION.

Amount of population in 1801	-	508
1811,	-	508
1821,	-	513
1831,	-	443
1841,	-	471

## IV.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—Stipend, L.150. Annual value of the glebe, L.16.

*Education.*—There is one parochial school, the teacher of which has the maximum salary. The accommodations are complete. French and Italian, as well as Latin and Greek, are taught in addition to the elementary branches. There is no other public school in the parish.

*Poor.*—Average number on the roll, 6; average number receiving occasional relief, 4; average amount of church collections for their behoof, L.35 per annum; mortifications, L.7 per annum.

1842.

## PARISH OF KILSPINDIE.\*

PRESBYTERY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.

THE REV. DAVID BLACK, MINISTER.

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

THERE were originally two parishes, Kilspindie and Rait; but at what period their union took place, has not been ascertained: it must have been prior to 1634. The walls of the church of Rait are still standing.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The form of the parish is oblong; its length, from south-east to north-west, being about 5 miles; and its greatest breadth, from south-west to north-east, about 3½ miles. It is bounded on the south and south-east, by the parish of Errol; on the south-west and west, by Kinfauns; on the north-west and north, by St Martins and Collace; and on the east, by Kinaird. The parish lies, partly in the Carse of Gowrie, and partly among the Sidlaw hills, about half-way between Perth and Dun-

\* Drawn up by Mr James M'Kercher, Parochial Schoolmaster of Kilspindie.

dee. The general appearance of the ground is pleasing, and presents to the eye an agreeable variety of moor and cultivated land. Towards the southern extremity, the ground is flat; at about a quarter of a mile farther north, it rises with a slope, for two miles, till it reaches an elevation of more than 600 feet; intersected in three different places, by the burns of Rait, Kilspindie, and Pitrodie. The remaining part has a northern aspect. The hills are generally barren; in many places, the surface is covered with a short heath, wet, and full of those whitish or grey whinstones which indicate a poor unkindly bleak soil. The bottom is a bad sort of clay, commonly termed mortar or till. But though, in general, the summits of the hills are barren and heathy, there are many pleasant spots, in hollows and glens, where the soil is good and fruitful in a high degree. All those parts of the hills which slope towards the Carse are well cultivated, producing crops of every kind that is to be found in the low country, and of equal quality,—potatoes and turnips in much greater quantity. That part of the parish which lies in the bottom of the Carse is generally very wet, but of a deep rich soil—a mixture of clay and moss—producing in good seasons very luxuriant crops. The Hill of Evelick, the highest in the parish, and not far from its centre, has been calculated, from barometrical observations, to be 832 feet above the level of the sea. Viewed from the south, it has a conical appearance, and is covered with a fine green. This hill commands from its top a most extensive and delightful prospect in every direction, embracing within the range some of the richest, most magnificent, and beautiful landscapes in Scotland. In looking towards the north, east, and west, a splendid scene everywhere meets the eye. In the foreground lies the extensive vale of Strathmore, seen almost from end to end, behind which tower the Grampian mountains, with the loftier Benglo, Shehallion, and Benvorlic, rearing their snow-clad tops in the far distance. On the south-east, south, and south-west, the Carse of Gowrie, with its spacious fields and fine orchards, clothed with the richest gifts of Ceres and Pomona, lies directly below; and, beyond that, the Tay, the coast of Fife, the Lomond hills, and the hills near Stirling.

*Geology.*—Nearly the whole of the parish, and especially the hills, is composed of amygdaloid trap and sandstone. The trap is found at different depths, and varies in its degree of hardness, being softer and more brittle where it comes near the surface, and becomes exposed to the influence of the weather. The sand-

stone is coarse in the grit, of a greyish colour; dip north-west, at an angle of about three degrees. Beautiful pieces of agate are frequently found among the hills, and, in the hands of the lapidary, these become valuable articles in the shape of brooches and watch-seals. There is a whinstone quarry wrought in the Den of Pitrodie, the stones of which are used in building, in metalling roads, and in filling drains.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Antiquities.*—On the summit of the Hill of Evelick are the remains of an ancient fortification. It appears to have been formed of two concentric circles or walls of stone, enclosing an area of about half an acre. The vestiges of a fosse are still visible. A little to the south-east of the hill stands the Castle of Evelick, now in ruins, the ancient seat of the Lindsays, Knights of Evelick. It was evidently originally built as a place of strength, and must have commanded the pass through that place from Strathmore to the Carse. In digging near this place, some tumuli were lately discovered, which contained human bones.

*Mansion-Houses.*—The only gentleman's seat in the parish is Fingask Castle, the residence of Sir P. Murray Threipland, Bart. beautifully situated on the braes of the Carse, and commanding an extensive prospect over the rich and fertile vale below, which here opens in one vast amphitheatre, with the river Tay rolling through it for upwards of fourteen miles, till it is lost in the German Ocean a few miles below Dundee. The grounds around it are tastefully laid out in flower-gardens, shrubberies, and extensive walks. The Castle, which is built on the brink of a deep glen, amidst wooded eminences, bears in one part the venerable date of 1194. It is now, however, greatly enlarged and modernized by additional buildings, but the castellated form is still preserved in its external appearance. This ancient mansion was formerly used as a place of strength, and, in 1642, stood a siege during the civil war in Oliver Cromwell's time. Here the Chevalier St George, son of James II., slept, January 7th 1716, on his way from Glamis to Seone, where he was proclaimed king. In 1746, the castle was completely ransacked by the Government troops, the fortalices demolished, and a great part of the building razed to the ground, in consequence of the attachment of the Threipland family to the cause of the unfortunate House of Stuart.

*Land-owners.*—The land-owners are,—

Sir P. Murray Threipland of Fingask, Bart.	I.1259	0	0
Mrs Moodie Stuart of Annat,	1890	19	3
General John Ramsay of Kinkell,	1211	10	9
Colonel Thomas Steele of Evelick,	1127	9	3
Robert Henry Robertson of Tullybelton,	1050	0	0
Principal Dewar of Over Durdie,	167	0	0
Henry Black Stewart of Balnakeilly,	100	0	0

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Sir P. M. Threipland, Bart. is the only resident heritor in the parish.

*Parochial Registers.*—The registers of this parish consist of several volumes, in which are also included the minutes of the kirk-session. The earliest entry is dated July 27, 1656. They are in pretty good order, and appear to have been regularly kept down to the present time.

### III.—POPULATION.

From the returns made to Dr Webster in 1755, the population was 828  
in 1791, 718

Since 1801, it has continued nearly stationary, with the exception of a small decrease since 1831, owing chiefly to emigration.

Amount of population in 1801,	762
1811,	762
1821,	722
1831,	760
1841,	709
Number of families in the parish,	155
chiefly employed in agriculture,	183
trade, manufacture, or handicraft,	22

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—It is impossible to state, with any degree of accuracy, the number of imperial acres in the parish; they may probably amount to about 6500. Of these, about 3500 are arable, and in a state of high cultivation, producing excellent crops of all the ordinary kinds. Potatoes are cultivated to a considerable extent, chiefly of the red variety, and great quantities are yearly shipped for the London market. Much attention is also paid to the feeding of cattle, and a considerable breadth is annually laid out in turnip, for that purpose. More than 200 acres of ground are under plantation, consisting mostly of larch, Scotch fir, and ash. These plantations are in a thriving state. About 200 acres are in a state of undivided common. The remaining part of the parish, with the exception of small portions, partially cultivated, is in a state of permanent pasture.

*Husbandry.*—Agriculture is in a flourishing state, and the system of husbandry that has been pursued, for many years, is very superior. The farms are kept under excellent management, and all

provided with thrashing-mills. Furrow-draining, both by tiles and small stones, is successfully carried on, and bone-dust is occasionally used in raising turnips. Farm-buildings are, in general, both substantial and commodious. The usual duration of leases is nineteen years.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Towns.*—Perth and Dundee are the nearest market-towns, distant about eight and thirteen miles respectively from the church. The turnpike-road from Perth to Dundee is distant about half-a-mile from the southern boundary of the parish. The nearest post-town is Errol.

*Villages.*—There are three small villages: Rait, containing 47 families; Kilspindie, 18; and Pitrodie, 16. In each of these a few hands are employed in the manufacture of linen fabrics for the Dundee market.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church, with its surrounding burying-ground, encompassed by spreading elm and ash trees, stands in the village of Kilspindie, on a rising piece of ground, formed by the junction of two small rivulets. The situation is delightful and well-chosen for the convenience of the majority of the population. It is a plain modern building, comfortably seated for about 350, and in a good state of repair. The manse, which is old, is situated within a hundred yards of the church. The stipend consists of 15 chalders, half meal half barley, payable according to the fiars' prices. There are two glebes, and the rent of both may amount to L. 13.

*Education.*—The parochial schoolmaster has the maximum salary, a free house, and an allowance in lieu of garden ground. He is also session clerk. The school-fees are—reading, 2s.; writing, 2s. 6d.; arithmetic, 3s.;—the higher branches in proportion. There is a private school in the village of Rait, the teacher of which is supported by the fees, and by voluntary subscription. The people are in general alive to the benefits of education, and manifest a laudable desire to have their children instructed in the useful branches.

*Library.*—A library, consisting of more than 300 volumes, has been in the parish for upwards of thirty years. It is chiefly composed of biographical, historical, and religious works.

*Poor.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial relief is about 8. The average weekly allowance to each varies from 1s. 6d. to 8s. besides a yearly supply of coals of 2½ bolls.

The collections at church, including mortcloth and marriage dues, amount yearly to L.25. Any deficiency is made up by contributions from the heritors.

*Inns.*—There are two public-houses in the parish.

*Fuel.*—The only fuel used, except small quantities of brushwood, is sea-borne coal.

November 1843.

## PARISH OF CARGILL.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.

THE REV. WILLIAM C. ROSE, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—CARGILL takes its name from *Caër*, signifying in the Celtic language a village, and *Cill*, a place of worship, or burial. It was formerly called the *West Parish*, and is said to have been part of the parish of Cupar of Angus, but has long since been disjoined from that, and erected into a distinct parochial district. Bishop Spottiswood mentions, that, as far back as the year 1514, Andrew Stuart, brother to John Earl of Athole, got the benefices of Cargill and Alyth.

*Situation, &c.*—This parish is situated in the large vale of Strathmore, and is bounded on the north, by the river Isla; on the north-east, by the parish of Coupar-Angus; on the east, by Kettins; on the south-east, by Collace; on the south, by St Martins; and on the west and north-west, by the river Tay.

*Extent, &c.*—It extends from west to east about 6 miles, and from north to south about 4,—on an average, forming nearly an oblong square. This parish exhibits a surface diversified by wood and water, and variegated by ascents and declivities. Rising gradually in the form of a ridge for about a mile from the river Tay, it reaches a plain of near four miles in breadth, which, with some unevennesses, it preserves till it comes to the Sidla hills, which form part of its eastern boundary. Excepting the woodlands, it is mostly all arable. The soil is extremely various and different. In the lower part of the parish,