

## PARISH OF KINFAUNS. \*

PRESBYTERY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.

THE REV. LACHLAN M'LEAN, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—It does not appear that this parish has ever been known by any other name than that which it at present bears. It is said to be of Celtic origin, and is resolved, by persons acquainted with that language, into *ceann*, signifying head, and *fauns*, signifying an opening; and is thus made by them to mean the *head of the opening*. What the opening here referred to was, however, it is not so easy to determine; and it must be confessed, that much room is left for fanciful conjecture. But as the western part of this parish consists of a narrow belt of flat land, confined on both sides by hills, and gradually expanding, or opening eastward into the vale of the Carse of Gowrie; one of the most probable conjectures is, that this constituted the opening in question. And if this was the case, the western extremity, or upper end of this belt, might very appropriately be called *ceann fauns*, or the head of the opening; and the name being thus applied, at first, to a single spot, might, naturally enough, afterwards be extended to a wider district, and ultimately become the name of the parish, of which that formed a part. As a sort of confirmation of this opinion, it may be remarked, that though Kinfauns has been the name given to the whole parish from time immemorial; yet, to this very day, it is to the west end of the parish, consisting of the property of the Right Honourable Lord Gray, that this name is applied in the strictest sense.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The length of the parish from Barnhill toll-bar, at the western extremity of the hill of Kinnoull, to the east end of the wood of Glendoick, is fully five miles. The breadth is very various, but may be estimated, on an average, at one mile and a-half. These dimensions give a superficial area of seven and a-half square miles, or 4800 imperial acres, for the whole parish.

\* Drawn up by Mr Robert Stewart, Parochial Schoolmaster of Kinfauns.

It is bounded on the west, and north-west, by the parish of Kinnoull; on the north, by a detached portion of that parish, called Balthayock, and by the parish of Kilspindie; on the north-east, by Kilspindie; on the east and south-east, by the parish of Érrol; and on the south, by the parish of St Madoes, by another detached portion of Kinnoull, and by the river Tay. Its figure is very irregular, and it is difficult to convey an idea of it in words. For the first three-quarters of a mile from the western extremity, its breadth is scarcely more than half a mile; farther east than this, it extends to upwards of a mile and a half; then about the middle, it is reduced again to half a mile; farther east still than this, it extends to about two miles and a quarter, but becomes gradually narrower towards the east end. Its general outline may be said, in short, to bear some faint resemblance to that of a violin.

*Topographical Appearances, &c.*—The surface is considerably diversified by level and rising grounds, by wood and water. The lands on the banks of the Tay are flat. From this they arise by a gradual and easy ascent to the base of the hills which traverse the parish lengthwise from east to west. Of these hills, Kinnoull, the most westerly, is also the most remarkable. It lies partly in the parish of that name, and partly in the parish of Kinfauns; and presents to the south a large abrupt front of rock, of a striking appearance, especially from the old post road, which went close to its base. On this side, the ascent is exceedingly steep, and clothed with a profusion of young and thriving trees, whose matted roots prevent the soil, in some degree, from falling down, which it sometimes, notwithstanding, does, bringing numbers of the trees along with it. This ascent extends upwards to fully three-fourths of the whole height of the hill, which is 632 feet above the level of the Tay. The remaining one-fourth, or nearly so, next the summit, consists of almost perpendicular rock. The summit projects, however, here and there, in rugged cliffs of a seamy texture, which, being gradually loosened by the frost and rain, have sometimes fallen in large masses, with prodigious force, into the plain below. On the east of this hill, the ground slopes gradually downwards; and here, in a hollow, stands Kinfauns Castle, yet at a considerable height above the Tay. A little to the east of the castle, the ground begins to rise again, by a rather steep but smooth ascent, forming the west side of another beautiful hill, clothed all around with wood. This hill is sometimes called Binn hill, from its somewhat conical shape, and sometimes the Tower hill, from its having on its top a tower, upwards of 80 feet high,

built, about thirty years ago, by the late Lord Gray, for an observatory, from the top of which may be obtained almost a bird's-eye view of Kinfauns Castle and gardens, and the pleasure grounds around, with an extensive prospect of the surrounding country. To the east of this last-mentioned hill, the land is arable, sloping gradually downwards, till it ends in a deep ravine, on the opposite side of which there is another hill, remarkable only as consisting of the largest continuous mass of conglomerate rock to be found in this part of the country. Farther east still, is another hill, which bears a strong resemblance to that of Kinnoull, only the rock immediately below the brow is not so nearly perpendicular. The top of this hill commands a view of the whole of the Carse of Gowrie, of the tower of Dundee, and of Broughty Castle, and also of the whole of the river Tay, from a mile below Perth to the German Ocean, a portion of which likewise is seen. To the south may be obtained a view of the whole east end of Strathearn, and to the south-west, a considerable portion of the middle of the same strath may be seen, the view being bounded in this direction by Auchterarder moor.

These hills already described, with another still farther to the east, which are almost all wooded on the top, and also up the southern acclivity, as far as the soil will permit, form what may be called the screen of the lowlands. But from these run northward other hilly ranges, forming various ramifications, rising, sinking, and rising again, by gentle undulations, till they pass beyond the bounds of this parish, and sink down at last into the valley of Strathmore, of which, to a certain extent, they form the southern boundary.

As we do not intend to enter on the geological department, it may be mentioned here, that all these hills consist of trap, with here and there patches of conglomerate; that in the sloping grounds, near their bases, on the south side, are found onyxes, jaspers, agates, and cornelians, of various sizes and colours; and that, also, in various places are found large boulders of whinstone, which is of a lighter colour than that of which the hills are composed,—with others which seem to consist of a sort of coarse granite.

The only cave in the parish, as far as is known to the writer, is one in the face of Kinnoull hill, rather difficult of access, called the Dragon-hole, and noticeable only on account of its being reported, by tradition, to have been the occasional hiding place of

Sir William Wallace, and for its being, in former times, the scene of certain superstitious observances.

"The soil is various. The banks of the river are covered with a strong clay, capable, with proper culture, of carrying the heaviest crops. The grounds rising towards the hills consist of an easy black mould, in many places deep and rich, even at a considerable height. In the level part of the parish, on the east side, the same kind of soil is in some places, mixed with clay; in others, with sand. The lands under cultivation are, in general, good and fertile: the uncultivated parts are mostly covered with plantations; so that there is scarcely an acre of waste ground within the parish." (Old Statistical Account.)

*Meteorology.*—With regard to aqueous and luminous meteors, it may be said that a full description and history of these, in as far as regards this parish, have already been published in the Statistical Account of Perth, from which city this parish is not distant quite a mile in a direct line. We shall therefore only sub-join the following meteorological tables, extracted from the register kept at Kinfauns Castle. The first is for 1841, which is the latest that could be procured.

1841.	Morn. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 8,		Evening 8,		Mean. Temp. by Six's Ther.	Depth of Rain in Garden.	No. of Days.	
	Mean height of Barom.	Ther.	Mean height of Barom.	Ther.			Rain or Snow.	Fair.
January,	29.648	29.258	29.611	30.516	31.064	2.30	10	21
February,	29.718	36.928	29.705	37.000	37.964	1.85	13	15
March,	29.584	43.580	29.590	42.677	45.774	1.55	16	15
April,	29.642	48.133	29.664	41.266	44.233	1.38	9	21
May,	29.906	51.741	29.674	49.838	51.451	1.56	9	22
June,	29.713	53.900	29.787	51.800	53.400	1.91	7	23
July,	29.621	56.032	29.625	53.935	56.580	3.96	15	16
August,	29.627	57.225	29.658	54.000	56.935	4.76	16	15
September,	29.597	52.066	29.595	50.933	54.566	2.65	16	14
October,	29.430	42.832	29.425	40.742	43.709	4.66	23	8
November,	29.504	35.933	29.501	36.700	37.433	2.12	12	18
December,	29.377	36.806	29.410	36.258	37.548	2.40	15	16
Average of the Year.	29.563	44.953	29.595	43.805	45.888	31.10	161	204

## Annual Results.

## Morning.

Barometer.		Thermometer.		
Observations.	Wind.	Observations.	Wind.	
Highest, 1st Feb.	East	30.56	26th May, South-east	66°
Lowest, 30th Nov.	South-west	28.43	9th January, North-west	6.

## Evening.

Highest, 1st Feb.	East	30.55	20th August, East	65°
Lowest, 30th Nov.	do.	28.60	8th January, North-west	5.

Weather.	Days.	Wind.	Times.
Fair,	204	North and north-east,	38
Rain or snow,	161	East and south-east,	95
		South and south-west,	108
	365	West and north-west,	124
			365

## Extreme cold and heat by Six's Thermometer.

Coldest, 9th January, wind north-west,	3°
Hottest, 20th August, wind south-east,	72°
Mean temperature for the year 1841,	45°888

## Results of two Rain-Gauges.

	Inches.
1. Centre of Kinfauns garden, about 20 feet above the level of the sea,	31.10
2. Square tower, Kinfauns Castle, 180 feet,	30.89

The following tables are also extracted from the above-mentioned register. The first contains the average mean heights of the barometer and thermometer, the depth of rain, &c. for each of the eight years preceding 1842. The second refers to the various directions of the wind for those years.

Years.	Morn. $\frac{1}{4}$ past 8,		Evening 8,		Mean Temp. by Six's Ther.	Depth of Rain in Garden.	No. of Days.	
	Mean height of Barom.	Ther.	Mean height of Barom.	Ther.			Rain or Snow.	Fair.
1834,	29.744	49.659	29.740	47.162	48.587	23.10	159	206
1835,	29.696	48.003	29.648	45.427	46.840	25.60	164	201
1836,	29.466	47.076	29.486	44.626	45.425	33.88	179	187
1837,	29.707	47.434	29.711	44.458	45.507	27.80	140	225
1838,	29.682	45.302	29.690	42.343	44.106	30.60	141	224
1839,	29.688	46.429	29.689	43.246	45.333	32.28	172	198
1840,	29.732	45.717	29.741	44.238	46.220	25.17	142	224
1841,	29.563	44.963	29.595	43.805	43.888	31.10	161	204

## Wind.

Years.	N. and N. E.	E. and S. E.	S. and S. W.	W. and N. W.
1834,	29 times.	87 times.	138 times.	111 times.
1835,	37	84	119	125
1836,	42	64	143	118
1837,	30	86	124	125
1838,	33	115	103	114
1839,	39	108	117	101
1840,	44	98	92	132
1841,	38	95	108	124
8 years,	292 times.	737 times.	948 times.	950 times.

From the above tables it will be seen, that the prevailing winds are from the west. These are sometimes very boisterous, blowing violently, as through a funnel, between the hills of Kinnoull and Mordun; at times, stripping the roofs of houses, and overturning stacks of corn. Our most uncongenial weather, however, is from the east. Cold piercing winds frequently blow from that direc-

tion in spring; and sometimes, for many continuous days, even in the early summer months. The climate is, upon the whole, however, mild and salubrious; and the people are remarkable for health and longevity. There are no diseases, or distempers, peculiar to the district; and epidemical infections are neither common, nor remarkably fatal.\*

*Hydrography.*—The Tay is the only river connected with the parish, and forms its southern boundary for upwards of three and a half miles. Three small streamlets intersect the parish from north to south, and drain off the humidities of the soil to the Tay. These take their rise from a variety of springs in the upper or hilly parts of the parish. For, both in these parts, and also in the rising grounds that slope towards the hills, there are a great number of such springs, of the most pure and limpid water, all perennial, and very little, if at all, affected by the severest summer droughts.

*Zoology.*—All the common kinds of game are found in the parish,—some in very great, some in less abundance; such as roe-deer; hares, black-cocks, pheasants, and, in their season, land-rails, snipes, and wood-cocks. Partridges have been rather scarce since the severe winter of 1837–8; during which, it is supposed, most of them perished. But they are now beginning again to be more numerous. Rabbits are, at present, by far too abundant. The other wild animals are, foxes, badgers, hedgehogs, squirrels, polecats, stoats, and weasels, &c. Badgers and polecats are now rarely to be met with; but they are not quite extirpated. We have also different species of hawks; two species, at least of owls; and the shrike is sometimes seen. Rooks are more numerous than is desirable, and great numbers of daws nestle in our rocks. Hooded-crows and magpies are extremely rare, considering the number and extent of our woods. Wood-pigeons have not been abundant since the severe winter above-mentioned, when vast numbers of them were frozen to death, or perished with hunger. Of all the common singing birds, we seem to have more than our own share. Goldfinches used to be very numerous in the neighbourhood of Kinfauns Castle; but few have been seen or heard, for the last five or six years. Flocks of those little migratory songsters, the wiskins, pay frequent visits, to the alder trees on the margin of the Tay, during the winter months; but seldom remain more than two or three days at a time. We are likewise visited,

\* In 1832, this parish was visited by the Asiatic cholera. The number of persons attacked by it was 14, of whom 5, all old persons, died.

at the approach of winter, by large flocks of fieldfares, and cross-bills are then, too, sometimes found in the woods. The Tay is frequented by different sorts of wild ducks, particularly the teal and the widgeon; and also by gulls, and birds of the awk kind.

The Tay, besides abounding in excellent salmon, affords also fine trout of different kinds, particularly two species of sea-trout, the white and red, weighing from 2 to 6 lbs. The large bull-trout is sometimes found from 16 to 30 lbs. and upwards. Sturgeon of large size are sometimes, though but rarely, caught in the salmon fishers' nets. Pike, too, are very numerous; and seals and porpoises are occasionally taken.

One species of animals deserves here to be noticed, which has of late given more annoyance to the inhabitants of this parish, than all the other wild animals put together. It is of no consequence, indeed, whether we term this wild or domestic, as it seems determined, at all events, to make itself the latter. We mean that detestable and mischievous little animal, the brown or Norway rat, which has intruded itself into every dwelling-house and out-house in the parish; and has multiplied to such a degree, notwithstanding all the means that have been used to destroy it, as to become a perfect pest.

*Plantations.*—In this parish, all the common kinds of trees are found. Some of the plantations consist chiefly of hardwood trees; such as oak, ash, elm, beech, &c.; while others consist mostly of Scotch fir, with larches and spruces intermixed. But some consist of a mixture of all these. Birches and mountain-ashes are not very common, and are, for the most part, comparatively young trees. The young plantations consist, for the most part, of larch and oak. The oaks planted in woods, whether old or young, are almost all of the variety called *Quercus robur*, or true British oak. But many of those planted in hedge-rows, and along road-sides, are of the variety *Quercus sessiliflorus*, or Turkey oak, with narrow leaves and mossy acorn-cups,—a variety which is said to be inferior to the former, both in the quality of its wood, and also in that of its bark for the purposes of the tanner.

In the vicinity of the mansion-houses, there grow sycamores, limes, poplars, Spanish chestnuts, horse-chestnuts, silver-firs, &c.; There are no trees in this parish very remarkable for age or size. Near Kinfauns Castle, grows a Spanish chestnut, 14 feet in circumference; an elm, 11 feet 7 inches; an ash, 12 feet; a sycamore, 12 feet 9 inches. Near the east gate of Seggieden there

is an oak, 11½ feet. The boll of this tree is also very long; and being altogether of a very handsome appearance, and standing near the highway, it frequently attracts the attention of travellers. On the north side of the road here is a beech 11 feet; a poplar, nearly in front of the house, is 11 feet; and a horse-chestnut, a little to the west, is 11 feet 4 inches. Close to the west end of Glencarse House there is a sycamore, 12 feet 2 inches, and containing nearly 250 feet of wood, exclusive of bark. Right in front of Glendoick House, there is a gean tree, 9 feet 8 inches; and another beside it is nearly of the same size;—being the largest trees of that kind in this parish. At a little distance from these is an ash, 11 feet 4 inches.

These girths were taken at 3½ feet from the ground, except where there were large protuberances near the root, in which case they were taken a little higher.

A little to the west of Kinfauns Castle, are a few trees of the *Pinus sylvestris*, or true Scotch fir. They are not remarkable for size, the largest being but 8 feet 2 inches in circumference; but they may be mentioned, as being the only trees of that kind in the parish, at least so far as is known.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Antiquities.*—In the Castle of Kinfauns is kept a large old sword, probably made near 500 years ago, and to be used by both hands. It is shaped like a broad sword, and is five feet nine inches long, 2½ inches broad at the hilt, and of a proportionable thickness, with a round knob at the upper end, near 8 inches in circumference. This terrible weapon bears the name of *Charteris's sword*; and probably belonged to Sir Thomas Charteris, commonly called Thomas de Longueville, once proprietor of the estate of Kinfauns. Sir Thomas Charteris, *alias* Longueville, was a native of France, and of an ancient family in that country. If credit can be given to accounts of such remote date, when he was at the court of Philip le Bel, in the end of the thirteenth century, he had a dispute with, and killed a French nobleman in the king's presence. He escaped, but was refused pardon.

Having, for several years, infested the seas as a pirate, known by the name of the Red Reaver, from the colour of the flags he carried on his ships, in May 1301 or 1302, (by Adamson's Chronology), Sir William Wallace in his way to France, encountered and took him prisoner. At Wallace's intercession the French King conferred on him a pardon and the honour of knight-hood. He accompanied Wallace on his return to Scotland,

and was ever after his faithful friend, and aiding in his exploits. Upon that hero's being betrayed, and carried to England, Sir Thomas Charteris retired to Lochmaben, where he remained till Robert Bruce began to assert his right to the crown of Scotland. He joined Bruce; and was, if we may believe Adamson, who refers to Barbour, the first who followed that king into the water, at the taking of Perth, January 8, 1313.

Bruce rewarded his bravery, by giving him lands in the neighbourhood of Perth, which appear to have been those of Kinfauns, and which continued in the family of Charteris for many years.

About ninety years ago, upon opening the burying vault under the aisle of the church of Kinfauns, erected by this family, there was found a head piece, or kind of helmet, made of several folds of linen, or some strong stuff, painted over with broad strips of blue and white; which seems to have been part of the fictitious armour, wherein the body of Thomas Longueville, or Charteris, had been deposited.

The estate of Kinfauns afterwards belonged to a gentleman of the name of Carnegie, of the Northesk family; from whom it passed to that of Blair, whose heiress was married to John Lord Gray, grandfather of the present Lord.

There is also in the house of Kinfauns, which stands on an elevated situation, overlooking the Tay, an iron flag or vane, 2 feet long and 1 foot broad, turning upon a staff of the same metal, 8 feet high. It has the date, 1688, cut in the middle, and was wont to be placed on the top of the castle. This was a mark, or badge, of an heritable office, or power of admiralty over the river, annexed to the estate of Kinfauns, for preserving the fishing, and punishing all trespasses committed in destroying the salmon. In a charter under the great seal, in the year 1671, the old jurisdiction is explained and confirmed; and, according to the tradition of the country, it was acknowledged by all vessels passing in the Tay, by a salute, or lowering of their colours to the castle. This power extends from Drumlie Sands below Dundee to the head of the river, and entitles the family of Kinfauns to a salmon, annually, out of every fishing boat on the Tay.

There is an old house, still standing, on the estate of Glendoick, near the east end of the parish, in which the Pretender, Prince Charles Edward Stuart, is said to have passed a night after his defeat at Culloden. This house was at that time in the occupancy of Lord George Murray; but how his lordship came to reside

here is not well known, as he does not appear to have had any property in the neighbourhood.

*Eminent Characters.*—Besides Thomas Charteris, the founder of the Kinfauns family, another eminent individual connected with this parish deserves to be noticed, viz. the Right Honourable Robert Craigie, Lord President of the Court of Session, the grandfather of the present proprietor of the estate of Glendoick. It was he who purchased the lands belonging to said estate, and built the mansion-house, in which he afterwards occasionally resided, when his professional duties permitted.

*Parochial Registers.*—The registers of this parish, regularly kept, are only two in number; viz. a register of births and baptisms, and a register of marriages. Both these commence in 1646, and are continued to the present time, except that in the former there is a blank from 1691 to 1700, and in the latter, from 1692 to 1700. Since the year 1825, what was before only a register of baptisms, has been a register of both births and baptisms. Previous to that year, only the child's name and the date of its baptism, together with the name, designation, and residence of the father, were set down; the date of its birth and name of the mother being seldom, if ever, mentioned. The average annual number of births or baptisms registered is 16; but, as many parents are very neglectful in getting their children's births and baptisms entered, this probably falls somewhat short of the total number of births in the parish. The average annual number of marriages, for the last ten years, is  $6\frac{1}{2}$ , and there can be no doubt but that this is correct.

There has never been any thing that could be called a regular register of deaths kept in this parish. In the year 1783, a register of burials was commenced, which was discontinued again in 1793. The total number of burials, as shown by that register for those ten years, is only 53, averaging about five annually, which must have been greatly below the real number. From 1793, indeed, to 1816, the dates of both the deaths and burials of a few distinguished persons, amounting to only nine in all, are set down; but, since the last-mentioned year, no register whatever of this kind has been kept.

Besides the above, there are also the minutes of the kirk-session, composing a record of church discipline, which is occasionally examined and attested by the presbytery. A strict account is likewise kept of the management of the poor's funds, and this

last is usually audited and docketed, once a-year, by a joint meeting of the heritors and kirk-session.

*Land-owners.*—The whole of the land-owners of the parish, at present, with their respective valued rents, are as follow, viz.—

The Right Honourable Lord Gray of Kinfauns, valued rent, L.	2038	8	8
Laurence Craigie, Esq. of Glendoick,	1437	17	6
Charles Hunter, Esq. of Glencarse,	1244	2	11
James Richardson Hay, Esq. of Seggieden,	897	13	4
Neil Fergusson Blair, Esq. of Balthayock,	260	12	11
Robert Cristall, Esq. of Inchyra,	70	0	0

*Mansion-Houses.*—These are, Kinfauns Castle, Seggieden House, Glencarse House, Glendoick House,—all modern buildings;

### III.—POPULATION.

There is good reason to believe that this parish is not now so populous as formerly. Within the remembrance of very old persons yet living, it had three public-houses, two meal-mills, one brewer, and one baker. It has none of this now except one public-house. It also contained at a former period one village, if not more. This village was called Clien, and must have been of considerable size, as there is a saying among old people, that “it had a reeking lum in it for every house in the parish of Semmiedores,” (St Madoes.) The parish of St Madoes is, indeed, a small one, and probably contains fewer houses now than it did then; but if these could be all brought together, they would form a pretty large village. So the one in question could not have been very small.

The following is the state of the population at the different periods mentioned :

Number of souls by return made to Dr Webster in 1755,	639
Population in 1772,	710
By old Statistical Account in 1793,	628
Government census in 1801,	646
1811,	621
1821,	802
1831,	732
1841,	720

What may have been the causes of the increase or decrease of population at distant periods, is not now well known; but the great increase in 1821 was owing to the building of Kinfauns Castle, which was then going on, and which drew a great number of artisans and labourers from other parishes, and, of course, as many of these as lodged within this parish were included in the population return thereof for that year.

There is at present neither town nor village in this parish, the largest hamlet containing only 14 families.

The number of families of independent fortune residing in it is only three; but there are usually more.

The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, is 6—being the whole number of land-owners of the parish.

The number of families in 1831 was	145
in 1841,	144
inhabited houses in 1831,	140
in 1841,	139
houses uninhabited or building in 1831,	9
in 1841, forgotten.	

It was stated in the last Statistical Account, that the people of this parish were rather above the middle size. This, however, does not appear to be the case now; for though there are some persons to be found considerably above the ordinary stature, yet it would be easy to find as many others as far below it.

There are, at present, two insane persons belonging to the parish, both confined in the lunatic asylum. There is no person belonging to it, who can properly be called an idiot; but there are three of rather weak intellect. One old woman has lately become blind. There are none deaf and dumb.

Smuggling is not at present known here, nor has it been so for a long time past. Poaching is still practised within the parish to a considerable extent—not, however, by its own inhabitants, but by fellows who come from Perth, or places in its neighbourhood, very often on the Lord's day, in bands of from three to six, or upwards, accompanied by as many dogs, and scour our woods and hills in search of game.

The number of illegitimate births within the last three years has been two.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—It has already been stated, that this parish contains altogether 4800 imperial acres. Of these, 2380 are arable, 240 consist of pasture, and the remaining 2180 are occupied by wood, roads, ditches, &c.

The various kinds of trees commonly planted have already been described. There is little or no natural wood in the parish, so far as is known to the writer; or, if there was any in former times, the interstices have been so closely filled up with planted wood, as to give the whole the appearance of plantation. Within the last twenty or twenty-five years, several old plantations of large extent have been cut down, and the ground which they occupied has been replanted with various kinds of trees, among

which the oak and larch predominate. A considerable extent of ground, too, which was formerly allowed to lie waste, or which afforded very poor pasture, has, within the same period, been planted with those same sorts of trees. Some of the young plantations, however, consist chiefly of Scotch fir. The whole of these plantations, whether old or young, with very slight exceptions, are all in a thriving condition, and are, generally speaking, under the very best management.

*Extent of Farms, Rent, &c.*—Eleven farms, which lie wholly in the parish, contain respectively as follows, viz. 126, 126, 127, 134, 145, 164, 170, 214, 216, 252, 287 imperial acres. Besides these, there are a number of pendicles and small farms, varying from two to thirty-eight imperial acres. And, lastly, there are six farms, some of them rather large, which lie partly in this, and partly in other parishes. The best land in the parish lets at about L.2, 16s. per imperial acre, while there is some not above L.1. The average rent per acre of arable land, for the whole parish, is about L.2, 2s. 9d.; that is to say, this was the rent for the last year (1842); but, as some of the land is let at a money rent, and some partly at a money and partly at a grain rent, the rate above-mentioned is liable to some degree of fluctuation. There is no pasture land let by itself, except a few grass parks. These are commonly let, by public roup, to the highest bidder; not at so much per acre, but at so much for the whole park, and for one season only at a time. The rent varies considerably from year to year; bidders being determined in their offers, partly by the appearance of the grass, and partly by the prospective state of the cattle markets.\*

The average wages and allowances of farm-servants, for the present year (1843) are as follows: Unmarried men, who usually lodge in a bothy, have about L.12 wages, with 6½ Scotch bolls of oatmeal per year, and threepence worth of milk per day. Married men have about L.9 wages, with milk and meal as above, together with 5 bolls of potatoes, and a house and small garden, worth about L.2, 5s. Foremen have generally about L.2, 10s. or L.3 more than common ploughmen; but their wages vary according to the extent of their charge. Female servants have about L.5

\* The real rental of the parish, for the year 1842, was about L.6940, including L.5574 for land, cottages, &c., and L.3866 for fishings. As the prices of grain for that year, however, were all but unprecedentedly low, the real rental for land in seasons on former years, have been considerably more.

of yearly wages, with bed and board. Agricultural day-labourers, and those employed in other out-of-door work, have about 1s. 6d per day; but some less during the short days of winter. Women, when employed in agricultural labour, such as in planting potatoes, hoeing potatoes and turnips, hay-making, and the like, have 8d. per day, without victuals. At lifting potatoes, women earn 1s. per day, without victuals; and children of eleven or twelve years of age, when employed in this sort of work, are paid at the same rate as women. During harvest, reapers of all sexes and ages are paid according to the quantity of work done, viz. at the rate of 3d. per threave for oats and barley, and 4½d. for wheat. Journeymen masons, wrights, and blacksmiths, have 13s. a-week. But most artisans here are masters and apprentices, the former being generally paid according to agreement with employers.

There are at present 26 artisans in the parish, including apprentices. The number of male agricultural labourers hired by the year (excluding farmers' sons, and also the small farmers who are usually labourers themselves,) is 45, of whom 26 are married. There is evidently a preference shown by the farmers here to married over unmarried ploughmen; as there are always more of the former than of the latter; and, taking all their allowances into account, they are paid at a somewhat higher rate. Perhaps they would have more of the married than they have, if they had houses to accommodate them; for though there is abundance of houses on certain farms, yet there is a scarcity on others.

*Live-Stock.*—The horses at present used for agricultural purposes are not of so large size as they are in some other parts of the country, nor as they were in this parish at a former period: but they are, for the most part, well-proportioned, vigorous, and spirited, and remarkably free from diseases. The statement in the former Statistical Account that, in this parish, "horses are bought, few being reared," does not now, in general, hold true; though it may be still so on certain farms.

Great attention has not been paid to the breeding of neat cattle. They are, generally speaking, of cross breeds; and often rather inferior beasts. Cows kept for dairy purposes by some of the proprietors, and also by a few of the farmers, are of the Ayrshire breed—though, in most cases, perhaps, not quite pure. Some of the proprietors choose, however, to keep cows of a larger size than these, though they may be deficient as milkers. A few oxen of the

pure West Highland breed are likewise usually kept by certain of the proprietors for the use of their own tables. But most of the cattle of this parish are crosses, as just stated; and are generally deficient either in size or symmetry—not unfrequently in both. As there is but little land allowed to lie in pasture, young cattle are kept at home, only in the winter months, to consume the straw; and sent to a distance to graze at the commencement of summer.

There is only one farmer in the parish who keeps sheep. These are of the pure Leicester breed, and usually number about 300. Two of the proprietors also keep a considerable number of the same breed; but those kept by the proprietors, in general, are of the Highland or black-faced breed, as affording the most delicate mutton for the table.

*Character of the Husbandry.*—The general character of the husbandry pursued may be termed judicious. In the low flat clay land near the Tay, the usual rotation of crops is the following: 1st, fallow; 2d, wheat; 3d, beans and pease, 4th, wheat; 5th, barley; 6th, grass; 7th, oats. In the higher grounds, between this flat land and the hills, a five years rotation is most common; viz. 1st, oats; 2d, green crop; 3d, wheat; 4th, barley; 5th, grass.

The general duration of leases is nineteen years, which is regarded, both by the proprietors and tenants, as a favourable period.

*Farm-Buildings.*—The state of the farm-buildings is very good. The farmers' dwelling-houses are almost all large and commodious, as are also the courts of offices. Most of them are quite new, and all may be said to be comparatively new.

The more recent agricultural improvements have been, in particular, furrow-draining the strong land with tiles, and the introduction, to a considerable extent, of chemical manures of light carriage, such as crushed bones, rape dust, guano, &c. These tiles are manufactured, to a large extent, by a neighbouring proprietor, Sir John Stewart Richardson, Bart. of Pitfour, on the patent principle of the Marquis of Tweeddale. The machinery for making these is wrought by a steam-engine, the clay being put in at one end of the machine, and the tiles coming out at the other, shaped to great nicety, and ready for being put into the kiln. The tenants in this parish, and indeed throughout the Carse of Gowrie in general, have used these drain-tiles to a great extent, and have thereby improved their crops amazingly, both in quantity and quality. And it is generally allowed, that, had

it not been for the improvement hereby effected, they could not have continued to pay their rents, although these are now lower than they were once.

An embankment has lately been made on the estate of Kinfauns, by which an island in the Tay is connected with the mainland. This embankment is composed of the gravel taken from the bottom of the river, in the process of deepening it, is of great width, and is considered of sufficient strength to confine the river, in time coming, within narrower bounds; and by means of it, a considerable extent of arable land may be expected to be ultimately reclaimed from what was formerly part of the bed of the river.

*Quarries.*—Throughout the whole hilly part of the parish, quarries of whinstone may be got, of excellent quality, either for building, or for road metal. Three are at present wrought.

*Fisheries.*—The salmon fishings of the Tay are the only kind of fishings carried on in this parish. These belong partly to the Right Hon. Lord Gray,—partly to the city of Perth, partly to Sir John S. Richardson, Bart. of Pitfour,—and partly to Mr Hay of Seggieden. Lord Gray is the principal proprietor of these in this parish, and, indeed, in the whole river. His fishings are at present let *in cumulo* at a rent of L.3027, 16s. a-year, although, some time ago, they were as high as L. 4000. His Lordship's fishings within this parish are worth about L.2200 a-year, and give employment to 60 men; those belonging to the city of Perth and to Sir John S. Richardson, are let at rents amounting together to L.766, 13s. 4d., and employ 32 men; those belonging to Mr Hay of Seggieden are let at a rent of L.400, and, at present, employ only 12 men. Adding all these together, therefore, it appears that the whole salmon fishings of this parish are at present let at a yearly rent of L.3386, 13s. 4d., and give employment to 104 men. These are all fished by net and coble; and, besides the 104 men already mentioned, a considerable number of women and boys derive employment from them in working nets; &c.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

It has been already stated that there is neither town nor village in this parish. The nearest market-town is Perth, which is only about one mile and two-thirds distant from its western extremity.

*Means of Communication.*—The nearest post-office is that of Perth, but there is now a receiving house within the parish. The

turnpike road from Perth to Dundee, which is kept in excellent repair, traverses the parish throughout its whole length; and three coaches, including the Royal Mail, pass and repass along it daily, between the towns just mentioned. Several carriers also pass and repass every week. There are several cross roads, too, which are likewise kept in good condition. Two steam-boats, moreover, ply daily, in the river, between Perth and Dundee, during the summer months; and one constantly plies in winter, when the state of the river will permit; and there is a small boat kept at Inchyra, a little below this parish, which conveys passengers to and from the steam-boats. There are, besides, two piers, on the side of the Tay, within this parish, at which vessels deliver coals, lime, &c. and take in potatoes and grain. One of these piers, however, is now rendered nearly useless by the late improvements that have been made in the river; but the pier of Inchyra is not far off, and is more conveniently situated for the eastern part of the parish than either of the former.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church, which is the only place of meeting for public worship within the parish, is nearly as conveniently situated, for the majority of the population, as it could be. It is about two and one-fourth miles from the western, and two and three-fourth miles from the eastern extremity of the parish. It has been built at three different times. The oldest part, which forms the body of the church, has no date upon it, but it is certainly of very great age. This is a long narrow quadrangular building, with very low walls,—so low, indeed, that it has evidently never been intended to have galleries in it. A gallery, however, has been erected in each end; but these are so near the ceiling, that in some parts a middle-sized man cannot stand upright. On the south side, there has been built an aisle, apparently at a later date, and which has belonged to the Kinfauns family from time immemorial. A very few years ago, as the church was too small to accommodate the parishioners and others who attended, another aisle was built, close to the west side of the former one. The church is now altogether very comfortable, and notwithstanding the great age of part of it, is considered to be throughout quite substantial. It contains 416 sittings, all free.

The manse was built in 1799, and received a large addition in 1840. It is now one of the largest and most commodious in this part of the country,—is throughout in excellent condition, and valued at L.28, 12s.

The glebe contains about five imperial acres, and is valued at L.20.

The stipend consists of 16 chalders, partly of grain and partly of oatmeal, together with L.10 of money; out of which, however, the minister is bound to provide the communion elements. These 16 chalders comprehend 4 bolls Scots of wheat, 126 of barley, and 126 of oatmeal, all converted into money by the highest fiars of the county. It will be seen from this, that the amount of stipend must vary from year to year along with the prices of grain; but the average annual amount, for the last seven years, was L.257, 18s. 10½d.

Before the great secession from the Establishment, in May last, the number of families belonging to the Established Church was 130; the number of Dissenting or Seceding families, was 12; and the number of Episcopalian families, 2. But, at the present time, it is impossible to say, with precision, how many families or individuals belong to the Establishment; as the people are, in this respect, in a very unsettled state. Divine service in the Established Church has generally been very well attended. The average number of communicants for the last ten years has been in summer 346, and in winter 320.

*Education.*—There are two schools in the parish exclusive of Sabbath schools, viz. the parish school, situated close beside the church; and another, situated in a barren moor, on the north border of the parish, which derives most of its scholars from Balthayock, a detached portion of the parish of Kinnoull.

The branches of education commonly taught in the parish school are, English reading and grammar, writing, arithmetic, and geography. Practical mathematics and Latin are occasionally taught. There have been sometimes also pupils learning Greek or French, but these were usually persons not belonging to the parish. The branches taught in the other school are the same as those commonly taught in the parish school.

The parochial schoolmaster's salary is L. 34, 4s. 4½d. As the school-fees are very low, they do not amount, on an average, to more than L. 25 yearly; but of this sum more than L. 17 is seldom paid; often considerably less. His other emoluments amount to about L. 7, 10s. at present; but the amount varies in different years; and these emoluments are not inseparably connected with the office of schoolmaster.

The rates of fees at the parish school are 2s. per quarter for

reading; 2s. 6d. for writing; and 3s. for arithmetic; it being understood that those who pay the higher rate, get the lower branches for nothing. Thus, for instance, children paying for writing, get reading for nothing; and those paying for arithmetic, get both reading and writing for nothing. English grammar and geography are always taught gratis, as it is not the parents, but the teacher, who wishes the children to learn these branches. At the other school, the fees are a little higher. At both schools, the principles of the Christian religion are daily taught.

The people in general are fully alive to the benefits of education; and there are scarcely any children above six years who are not taught to read, and very few above nine who cannot write.

*Poor.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid for the last seven years was 12; that is to say, the average number of names on the permanent roll, for these years, was 12; but as some of those persons had others depending on them, the total number relieved was considerably more. Those persons had each an allowance in money advanced to them every twenty-eight days, varying from 3s. to L. 1, according to their necessities; about half the number received each 12 cwt. of English coals annually; and a still smaller number had their house-rents paid. So that the average sum allotted to each person on the permanent roll for those years, including money, coal, and house-rents, was L. 5, 0s. 7½d. annually.

Besides the paupers on the permanent roll, there are always a number, more or fewer, receiving occasional relief; and the average annual sum distributed among these for the period above-mentioned was L. 4, 16s. 3d. It may be mentioned also that, within the same period, the kirk-session expended considerably upwards of L. 100 on the board, medical treatment, &c. of paupers in the Lunatic Asylum.

The average annual amount of funds which have passed through the hands of the kirk-session for the purpose of relief to the poor, during the last seven years, has been L. 90, 19s. 2½d. This has been made up of church collections, averaging annually L. 34, 8s. 1½d.; and of mortcloth and proclamation dues, averaging annually L. 4, 4s. 6½d.; together with an additional sum, amounting, on an average, to L. 52, 6s. 6½d. annually, consisting of the interest of capital, and of part of capital itself lifted. It ought to be observed, however, that, out of these L. 90, &c., there are paid the salaries of the synod, presbytery, and session clerks,—synod, presbytery,

and church, officers, &c., amounting to a little upwards of L.10 a-year.

No assessment, either legal or voluntary, for the support of the poor, has hitherto been necessary in this parish; but, as the church collections and other casualties are now not half sufficient for the purpose, it is but too evident that some such mode of support must very soon be had recourse to.

*Inns.*—There is only one inn in the parish, in which very good order is kept, and it has had no bad effects on the morals of the people. Whatever may be the faults of our people here, intemperance is a vice scarcely heard of among them.

*Fuel.*—The fuel commonly used consists of English coal, at from 15s. to 17s. 6d. a-ton; or of Scotch coal, commonly called great coal, from the south of Fife, or the other collieries in the vicinity of the river Forth, at from 16s. to 18s. 6d. a-ton, according to the quality. This is delivered at the piers in the parish or its neighbourhood, and costs little for carriage. A good deal of wood is also used for fuel, consisting of the thinnings or prunings of plantations.

October 1843.

---

## PARISH OF KILMADOCK.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNBLANE, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.

THE REV. GORDON MITCHELL, A. M., MINISTER.

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name is believed to signify the *Chapel of St Madock, Madocus, or Modocus*, one of the Culdees.

*Extent.*—This extensive parish is about 12 miles in length, and 9 in breadth, containing at least 64 square miles.

*Boundaries, &c.*—It is situated in the ancient stewartry of Monteith, and is bounded on the north, by Muthill and Comrie; on the south, by Kincardine and Kippen; on the east, by Dunblane and Lecropt; and on the west, by Callander and Port-Monteith.

*Topographical Appearances.*—Its figure, though somewhat irregular, approaches to a parallelogram. Situated betwixt the Grampians and the Ochill hills, with a variety of hill and valley, it con-