

whenever summer begins, numbers of the children are taken from school, and sent to herding or some other employment. So far as is known, there are no persons in the parish of sufficient age, who are unable to read, (except perhaps one or two aged individuals,) and the greater proportion are able also to write. All classes are fully alive to the benefits of education, and anxious to obtain it for their children.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The district of Logiealmond being annexed to this parish only *quoad sacra*, the kirk-session have nothing to do with the poor of that quarter. In the old parish, there are only five persons receiving aid from the poor's funds. They are allowed from 1s. 3d. to 3s. per week. The average amount of collections at the church doors is L. 17 per annum. The kirk-session have besides a sum of L. 70 laid out at interest. There is no assessment; and any deficiency of funds is made up by a half yearly donation of a few pounds from the heritors.

Alehouses.—The number of alehouses, (or as they should rather be called whisky-shops, for comparatively little malt-liquor is consumed,) has been already adverted to.

Fuel.—In Logiealmond, peats and wood are almost the exclusive articles of fuel. In the east end of the parish, coals, principally English, are used, and which cost at Perth about 1s. 10d. per cwt.

April 1837.

PARISH OF COLLACE.

PRESBYTERY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.

THE REV. JOHN ROGERS, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—THE etymology of Collace is uncertain. It is situated 7 miles north-east from Perth, is perfectly inland, and surrounded by the parishes of Cargill, St Martins, Kinnaid, and Abernyte. Its length and breadth being nearly equal, and upwards of 2 miles, it contains nearly 5 square miles.

The surface upon the whole is rather flat, except towards the hills, where the ascent is too steep for the plough. The soil in

general consists of a light, sharp, blackish loam, in some places intermixed with clay; but the bottom is free, being a dead reddish sand. The Sidlaw hills, which commence in the parish of Kinnoull, here assume considerable elevation. *Sid* or *Sud*, in the Gaelic, signifies *South*, a name most appropriate, as they form not only the boundary of Collace on the south, but also of a great part of the valley of Strathmore. Ranging north-east, they traverse the country with little interruption for thirty miles, and lose themselves in the German Ocean, at the promontory in Angus-shire called the Red-Head. The climate is variable. In winter and spring, piercing and stormy winds from the south-east, are accompanied with a chilly *haär* from the sea; but in general the atmosphere is clear, temperate, and salubrious. The mean annual temperature, ascertained from careful observations taken twice a-day for a series of years, is about 47° of Fahrenheit.

There are no epidemical diseases, and as to longevity there are not a few both of men and women seventy years of age and upwards, enjoying wonderfully good health, and engaged in their various occupations; several are above eighty.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Parochial Registers.—There are neither ancient nor modern historical accounts of this parish, nor have any events taken place worthy of public record. The parochial registers go back to 1713, and have been pretty accurately kept. They consist of six thin folio volumes.

Eminent Men.—In reference to the eminently good men connected with this parish, and now numbered with the dead, we have much pleasure in doing justice to the memory of William Nairne, Esq., a younger son of the family of Dunsinane. Bred an advocate at the Scotch Bar, he soon became Sheriff of Perthshire, and in due time was promoted to the important offices of a Senator of the College of Justice, and member of the High Court of Justiciary, with the title of Lord Dunsinnan. A more upright Judge never sat upon the Bench. In 1809, when his public duties were becoming oppressive to his declining years, he resigned both gowns, and retired to his residence at Dunsinnan. He had become sole proprietor of the parish some thirty years before, by purchase from his nephew Sir William Nairne, at whose death the title also devolved on him. To the improvement of his paternal estate, he had as early as possible applied, with unabated zeal and perseverance, and so judicious were those improvements, that Lord Dunsinnan lived to see his rents doubled, and often quadrupled.

To the welfare of the parish, and more especially to their religious instruction, he was equally attentive. He feared God, and honoured the King. He remembered the Sabbath day, and was never absent from church, except from necessity. His example was highly useful in his own time. Still more useful must such praiseworthy conduct be in our times, to put to shame, if possible, increasing impiety, and to stem the overflowing tide of iniquity. Lord Dunsinnan died 22d of March 1812, being upwards of eighty years old, and was buried within the walls of the old church of Collace, now converted into a mausoleum for the Dunsinnan family; and to which there is access by a large arched gateway of uncommon beauty, and of the rare and ancient order of Saxon architecture. Lord Dunsinnan was succeeded by our present sole heritor, James Mellis Nairne, Esq. who has followed the example of his predecessor, and has laid out a great deal of money in improving and beautifying his estate, though it is strictly entailed on heirs-male.

Modern Buildings.—Dunsinnan House, situated in the north-west corner of the parish, with a fine southern exposure, and screened from the winter blast by extensive plantations, has been lately greatly enlarged and modernized by Mr Nairne. No pains have been spared to render this mansion not only elegant, but capable also of containing the largest family. The offices have been rebuilt on the newest and most approved plan, and are uncommonly spacious and convenient. The new church, which was finished in 1813, is a handsome Gothic structure, with a square tower surmounted by minarets. Built on commanding ground, and surrounded with venerable trees, it is highly ornamental, and much and deservedly admired.

In 1825 a new school and school-house were erected, furnishing ample accommodation for master and scholars. This building, combining every desirable requisite, with a prudent regard to economy, may be safely recommended as a model for all such parochial new structures when they are required. The garden, partly surrounded by a substantial wall, eight feet high, is tastefully laid out, and the whole premises are kept in excellent order.

Quarries.—Two quarries, which have been long wrought on the estate, furnish freestone in abundance, and of the best quality, for all the houses and other mason-work in the parish.

Antiquities.—Of these the most remarkable is the far-famed hill of Dunsinane, which rises nearly 800 feet above its base, and

1114 feet above the level of the sea. Its oval and conical summit is 169 yards in length, by 89 in medium breadth. Upon this insulated and chosen site, Macbeth, the Thane of Glamis, in 1043, and soon after his usurpation of the Scottish crown, erected a strong and lofty castle. Here he held his court, and for some years was attended by his reluctant vassals, and kept the surrounding country in the most degrading subjection. In the meantime Malcolm, son of the old and good King Duncan, whom Macbeth had murdered, fled into England for protection. The reigning prince, Edward the Confessor, not only gave him a kind reception, but was prevailed upon also to support his claim to the Scottish throne by a powerful army, commanded by his brave General Siward, Earl of Northumberland. The discontented barons flocked to the English standard reared in Malcolm's behalf; and in the course of the year 1094 this overwhelming force approached to Dunsinane. Being observed from the battlements by Macbeth, he considered his fortifications untenable, and immediately fled northward. He was pursued, overtaken, and slain, according to common report, at Lumphanan in Aberdeenshire. His fortress was immediately razed to the ground, and that the destruction might be the more complete, fire was employed, as appears from the calcined matter and scorched materials among the rubbish. Such as take the trouble of ascending this remarkable hill, will find themselves amply repaid. The enthusiasm of classic ground will be felt and acknowledged by the scholar. The scenery, indeed, may call up some of the blackest pages of Scottish history, but our recollections will be accompanied by the grateful feeling of assurance that such barbarous times are for ever gone by. The view presented from Dunsinane on every side is rich, varied, and picturesque. Nor is it a more delightful, than it is a commanding station. In a clear day, there is nothing to prevent the practised eye from taking in fifty miles all around, and obtaining a glimpse of sixteen different counties in the horizon. This eminence is also favourable to devotion. Turning to the north and north-west, an amphitheatre of uncommon grandeur and beauty rises before us. Grampians piled on Grampians in countless succession, rear their heads beyond the clouds. They display the majesty of the Almighty Creator, and fill us with the most sublime conceptions of the power of him "who meteth out the heavens with a span, weigheth the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance.*"

* For further particulars, see notes taken on the spot in 1772, by Sir John Sin-

III.—POPULATION.

By the last Statistical Account in 1793, the population was	473
By the census in 1801,	562
1811,	663
1821,	691
1831,	730

The gradual increase of the population is chiefly among the labourers and handicrafts, which is in a great measure owing to the increase of trade and manufactures. Three-fourths of the people live in the villages, the remainder in the farm-houses and bothies.

The yearly average of births for the last seven years,	18
of deaths,	12
of marriages,	6
The number of persons under 15 years of age,	200
betwixt 15 and 30,	162
betwixt 30 and 50,	212
upwards of 70,	37

Of the 730 inhabitants in the parish 351 are males, and 379 females. The number of families 142, each family at an average consisting of about five persons. Inhabited houses 141. One person blind, and two others fatuous.

During the last three years there have been 7 illegitimate births in the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—All the land in the parish which is considered arable is under cultivation by the plough, and in a high state of improvement. Iron ploughs are becoming general, and, when drawn by two good horses, can overtake the working of 50 acres Scotch measure. Iron harrows are also coming into use.

The number of imperial acres under tillage, is	1747
under wood, chiefly Scotch fir and larch,	560
under pasture,	100

Hard wood thrives very well in hedgerows. Some of it was lately cut, measuring $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter. There are some beech trees at Collace village whose girth is not less than 9 feet.

The rent of land varies according to quality. Some of it is so low as L. 1, some of it so high as L. 3 per acre. The average may be taken, therefore, at L. 2. - The tenants, while they are most frugal and industrious, are considered, from the crops they raise, as managing their farms in the most skilful manner. Owing to

clair, and published under the title of "Additional information respecting the Castle of Dunsinnan." Sir John, though then only eighteen years old, gave promise of those talents, and of the powers of that inquisitive and discriminating mind, which in due time was to be directed to the acquisition and diffusion of such important practical knowledge, as has raised him to the highest rank among the benefactors of his country. See also Lord Hailes's *Annals of Scotland*.

the nature of the soil and climate, wheat and beans are not always profitable. The green crop system is therefore commonly followed—a five-shift rotation, including two years in grass, has been found most advantageous, and best adapted to the soil. Ploughmen's wages from L. 12 to L. 14 per annum, with the usual allowance of meal and milk; women's wages, from L. 6 per annum to L. 6, 6s.; mason's and carpenter's from 2s. 6d. to 3s. per day; day-labourers 1s. 6d. In winter, their wages are proportionally less. Women employed at out-door work, 8d. per day; when lifting potatoes, 1s. without victuals.

Produce.—The average gross amount of value of raw produce raised in the parish, as far as can be ascertained, is as follows:

Imperial acres.	Quarters.			
78 of wheat, produce	245½	at L. 2, 8s. per qr.	L. 589	4 0
264 of barley,	1064	at L. 1, 9s.	1542	16 0
453 of oats,	1916	at L. 1, 4s.	2299	4 0
500 of grass, (artificial) cut and pastured, value			1303	0 0
193 of potatoes,			1721	0 0
241½ of turnips,			859	0 0
18 of tares or fallow.				
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1747½		Total value of raw produce,	L. 8314	4 0

In the above calculations, the green crop (with the exception of part of the hay and potatoes) is understood to be consumed on the farms, which is the practice generally followed in this parish. A few horses are reared for sale, the breed of which, as also of the cattle, being very much attended to, have greatly improved of late years. A considerable number both of cattle and sheep are fed off every winter, and disposed of at a fair profit to the butcher. The farm-steadings are among the best in the country, and kept in excellent repair. The principal farms are let on leases of nineteen years—those of small dimensions for shorter periods.

Manufactures.—The produce of the loom has long been our staple article of commerce, and has of late greatly increased. In the progress of human improvement, it has been ascertained, that yarn fit for being woven into linen cloth, can be produced by machinery, not only cheaper and better, but also in inconceivably greater quantities, than by the former tedious means of hard labour—a new direction has thus been given to the industry of this, and of many other parishes in Scotland. The *spinning-wheel* has been entirely superseded, or used only for the very refuse of flax; and the spinsters, thrown out of their old and congenial employment, have been obliged to have recourse to the loom. In weaving the lighter fabrics, we are happy to find they are succeeding

remarkably well, and without any apparent injury to health. This increasing branch of business has attracted a new set of agents, who weekly resort to the mill-spinners of Dundee, purchase their yarn to the annual amount of some thousand pounds, and bring it home in carts, when they distribute it amongst their customers, who work it into cloth, according to pattern laid before them. The webs when finished are returned to Dundee, where they find a ready market,—but with this drawback, the prices are more fluctuating in this than in any other trade, there being a continual dependence on the precarious state of distant and foreign markets, over which the home merchant can have no control.—Upon the whole, however, there is such a profit to the agents as is considered remunerating, and which enables them to give sufficient encouragement to those whom they employ. There are upwards of 100 looms in the parish in full operation, by young and old of both sexes. This new channel for labour, as was to be expected, has occasioned in the *meantime* a slight rise in the wages of servants, and handicrafts of every description.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

In former times, there were two considerable annual markets in Kinrossie. The ancient *Cross* now only remains. The business in cattle and small wares has been transferred to Burrelton, and other places in the neighbourhood. Perth is the chief market-town, to which there is access by an excellent turnpike road, which traverses the parish for two miles, leading eastward to Cupar-Angus, to which there is a daily post-boy from Perth, leaving and taking up letters at a receiving-house as he passes. There is also a splendid daily coach called the *Defiance*, with four very superior horses, which follows the same route, in its way from Edinburgh to Aberdeen.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church, which was built, as has been observed, in 1812 and 1813, is kept in good repair, and is so centrally and conveniently situated, that the bulk of the people are within a mile of it, and none further distant than two and a-half miles. There is accommodation for upwards of 400 sitters. The church is generally well filled, and the number of communicants has often exceeded 400. This includes nearly 100 strangers from the neighbourhood, whose parish churches are at such a distance as renders it next to impossible for their being regularly attended. The unequal, and, as it may be called, reckless division, of many of the parishes in Scotland, is an evil which has been long

felt, and justly complained of. Should this grievance be inquired into by the proper authorities, they would find it quite practicable, and easy to reform so glaring an abuse. This would greatly promote the interests of religion, and contribute much to the comfort and convenience of many thousands, in country parishes. As it would not be proposed to interfere with the *civilia*, but merely with the *quoad sacra* of the church, the arrangements, to give convenience to the fullest extent, would be settled without the smallest opposition.

The glebe contains nearly 9 imperial acres, and may be worth L. 15 per annum. The manse and offices, which were built in 1778, on rather a small scale, have been repaired within these twenty years, and so much improved and enlarged, as to render them more commodious. The amount of stipend is L. 150 yearly, including L. 87, 3s. 8d. from Government.

The average number of persons receiving regular parochial aid is 7. The average sum allowed to each is about L. 4 per annum, including 6s. to each for coal money. A house and garden are provided for each of them *gratis*. Small sums are occasionally given to such as are reduced to straits, but who are not on the poor's roll. There is also an extended roll for coal money, which is distributed annually on the Monday after the sacrament.

The number of families in the parish attending the chapels of Dissenters or Seceders is 12.

Education.—The parochial school, which is central, being close to the church, is the only one in the parish. The salary is the maximum, and the accommodation most complete. The fees may amount to L. 30 per annum, and this arises more from the number of scholars (averaging upwards of 70 for three quarters of the year,) than from the rate of payment, which is very moderate; beginning with 2s. per quarter for English, and rising only to 3s. and 4s., when writing, arithmetic, and geography are included.

The schoolmaster, besides being qualified to instruct the rising generation in the common routine of country schools, is capable of teaching geometry, mathematics, and many other branches of education, which are seldom required here. There is no family without a Bible, and no member of it exceeding ten years of age who cannot read it. To assist in effecting this in the case of poor scholars, there is a small fund available. It arises from the mortification of seat-rents in the old church of Collace, by the fa-

ther of Lord Dunsinnan, upwards of one hundred years ago, and the transaction being engrossed in the session records of Collace, is in substance as follows: "The Hon. Sir William Nairne of Dunsinnan, hath by letter under his own hand, of date 16th August 1736, *doted* the seats in the east loft and those under it, to be let, and the money to be bestowed for the benefit of teaching of poor children in the parish of Collace." The amount of these during the last thirteen years was L. 11. There has been a very considerable falling off in this fund, which has arisen chiefly from the erection of the new church, as it contains fewer seats for letting, but Mr Nairne has generously made good the deficiency.

There is a library, under the patronage of Mr Nairne, consisting chiefly of historical, geographical, and religious books, the foundation of which was lately laid, by a handsome donation of excellent works from the patrons, and although only in its infancy, it is most acceptable to the people, and is rapidly diffusing a taste for reading among them.

Parochial Poor Funds.—These arise from the interest of money, the use of the mortcloths, and other small sources; but chiefly from collections, made every Sunday after divine service in church, which amount on an average to L. 12, 10s. a year. Donations are also occasionally given by Mr Nairne. About L. 40 are annually distributed to the poor by the kirk-session.

Inns.—There is only one inn or public-house in the parish, which is very useful, and under the best regulations, and against which no complaint was ever made, as encouraging in the smallest degree drunkenness or immorality.

Fuel.—The fuel generally used in the parish is English coals from Perth, at the average cost of 1s. per cwt.

May 1837.