

## PARISH OF MUTHILL.

PRESBYTERY OF AUCHTERARDER, SYNOD OF PERTH & STIRLING.

THE REV. JAMES WALKER, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE author of the last Account of this parish says, that, "as the names of almost all places around are Gaelic, and generally descriptive of their local situation, this parish probably takes its name from an Erse word of somewhat a similar sound, which signifies the *north side of the Hill.*" We prefer to derive the name from the Gaelic word, *Mòdail*, compounded of *Mod*, signifying a court of justice, and *Dail*, a field, bounded by river and hill; and accordingly, that part of the parish lying near to the village presents something of a delightful field or valley, limited by river and hill. The name was formerly spelled *Mothil*, as appears from a brief history of the Culdees, selected by Keith, wherein it is said, that one Michael was parson of *Mothil*, and Macbeath was his chaplain. In the history of Scotland, *Mote-hill* and *Moothill* are often mentioned. On the eminences so named the Druids sate, and delivered their decrees and their addresses to the people. It is said by Skene, de Verb. Signific. "Quhen Malcolm the Second gave all the lands to the barones of the realm, he retained to himself *Montem placiti de Scona*, the 'mute hill of Scone,' where he might hold his courts, and do justice to his subjects, in deciding their pleas and controversies." Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*, observes, there was a *Moothill* in every district of North Britain, during an age when justice was administered to a coarse people in the open air. In this parish accordingly, there is still a place in the village, called "the Ward," where the chief of the strath distributed justice to his vassals. From this, *Muthill* would appear to have been held in some esteem, and it is certain that, previous to the Reformation, it was the residence of the Dean of Dunblane, and afterwards the seat of the presbytery, which now meets in Auchterarder.

*Boundaries and Topographical Appearances.*—*Muthill* is one of the most extensive parishes in Strathearn. Upon a general calcu-

lation, it may be said to contain about 80 square miles. Its figure is very irregular, extending downwards into the vales of the Allan and the Earn. It is bounded on the north-west by Comrie and Monivaird; on the north by Crieff; on the north-east by Madderty; on the east by Trinity-Gask; on the south-east by Blackford; and on the south-west by Dunblane. The village is three miles from Crieff, nineteen from Stirling, and about the same distance from Perth.

As to the general appearance of this parish, it is sufficiently diversified, and will be judged so by the traveller in passing through it; but if viewed at a distance from the east, all inequalities are lost sight of, except that of Torlum Hill, and the aspect which it then assumes is that of two inclined planes, ascending gradually from the north and south extremes to a transverse ridge of considerable elevation. The transverse ridge, however, is found to be double as we come near it, and between the ridges flows the river Machony. The one ridge, or part next to Muthill village, extends in a circuitous direction onwards to the foot of Torlum, and is in a state of cultivation; the other, bleak and barren, known by the name of Corryaur, extends from the Muir of Orchill westerly, until it terminates abruptly amongst other hills wild as itself.

The south ridge may be considered the natural division of the parish, and has led us to speak of the Muthill side and the Ardoch side. Each of these sides has its attractions and its beauties; the one has its Allan and its Knock rivers; the other its Earn and Machony; each has its kirk and village, its woods and cultivated lands; but yet we are inclined to think that the observing traveller must give a preference to the Muthill side. And that he may do so, we would place him on the eminence of the northern ridge, on his way from Ardoch by the military road. In this position he sees the parish church, a stately Gothic building, with its adjacent cleanly village, looking through the rows of shrubs and trees,—roads in several directions, half-shaded over with limes and chestnuts,—large fields in the highest state of cultivation, and the winding Earn moving slowly through them. But this is not all. On his left is Drummond Castle, full in view, whose shattered walls remind him of other days; and behind it is Torlum hill, 1400 feet above the level of the sea, unsurpassed for beauty, in its conical shape and its evergreen trees; and then before him is lofty Benchoan, and Turret Glen, and the Knock with Crieff on its sloping side; and on his right, the far extending prospect to the hills of Sidla.

*Climate.*—From what we have already noticed of this parish, there may be expected in different parts of it a difference of climate. Accordingly, in comparing the south side with the north, it is found that snow lies two days longer on the former than on the latter; and in accounting for this we would advert to the peculiarity of the straths, whereof the districts alluded to form a part;—Strathearn, lying deep and flat, is defended by its mountain sides from the violence of the storm, and the reflection of the sun's rays from the hills produce a great degree of warmth in it,—while through the opening of Strathallan, currents of wind, that issue from the glens, sweep along the vale, and render it less warm and fertile. The greater spaciousness of Strathern removes it also the farther from the chilness of the mountain air, or of haze attracted by the mountains; for it is not unfrequently seen, that, whilst on the banks of the Earn the sun is shining, showers of rain or showers of snow are falling upon the hills. The soil also of Muthill may be taken into consideration as of a drier nature than that of the other, because upon an opener bed, less retentive of the rain, and so of the cold,—for doubtless there is a relationship between the soil and the atmosphere. Storms, however, frequently visit both. Our colder winds come from the east and north-east, and the more violent from the south-west.

The parish is, on the whole, healthy. Of the healthy aged we have many examples.

*Hydrography.*—In former days, there were in this parish several springs or wells much esteemed for their virtues, real or imagined. One of these is at Straid, in the district of Blair-in-roan, much frequented once, as effectual in curing the hooping-cough.\*

In the same district, is St Patrick's Well, so named from a chapel once there, probably dedicated to that saint. Part of the foundations of the chapel is still to be seen, and close by these are a few houses lately built, which bear the name of the saint. We know not what connection St Patrick had with this sequestered spot; but it is certain, that the inhabitants, until very lately, held his memory in so high veneration, that on his day neither the clap of the mill was heard, nor the plough seen to move in the furrow.

\* Not farther back than a few weeks ago, a family came from Edinburgh, a distance nearly of sixty miles, to have the benefit of this well. As a piece of useful information, we may add, that the water must be drunk before the sun rises, or immediately after it sets; and that out of a "quick cow's horn," or a horn taken from a live cow, which indispensable horn is in the keeping of an old woman who lives near by the well!!

A third well upon the side of the Machony was of still greater importance. It was called the well of Struthill, and by the credulous was much sought after, as its virtues were considered effectual in curing madness. Doubtless, its celebrity was altogether owing to the artifices of the avaricious religionists, who, it would appear, practised on the superstition of frequent visitors, to call forth their liberality in the shape of offerings cast into the well. That this account is more than mere conjecture, appears from the fact, that the Popish chapel which stood near the well was ordered by the presbytery of Auchterarder, anno 1650, to be demolished, on account of the superstitions which were practised within it. But even this was not effectual to do away the celebrity of the well, or rather, we may say, was not effectual to lessen the avarice of those who kept it; for in 1668 several persons testified before the presbytery of Stirling, that, having carried a woman thither, "they had stayed two nights at a house hard by the well; that the first night they did bind her twice to a stone at the well, but she came into the house to them, being loosed without any help: The second night they bound her over again to the same stone; and she returned loose. And they declare also that she was very mad before that they took her to the well, but since that time, she is working, and sober in her wits." This well was still celebrated, and votive offerings were cast into it, in the year 1723; but such delusions have now happily passed away.\*

Formerly, the only lake in the parish was the loch of Balloch, a natural collection of water at the foot of Torlum, not remarkable for beauty or expansion. But now we have several artificial lakes, one of which is worthy of notice. It is commonly styled the Pond of Drummond. This is an interesting sheet of water, and cannot but be admired by the visitor. On its north side, is a rocky eminence, about seventy feet above its level; around it are well wooded banks; and on it, swans, geese, and ducks are at all times seen. Its length is nearly a mile, and its breadth about half the same. Where the loch is now, there was once a cultivated valley, which was portioned out by the King's Commissioners on the forfeited estates, as a reward to some of the bravest men who hazarded their lives in the Rebellion of 1745; and after all of them had died out, or were removed, Lady Perth desired it to be formed into its present state.

\* See *Darker Superstitions of Scotland*, p. 82.

There are four rivers in the parish. The principal of these is the Earn, which flows out of the loch of that name, and, running through Comrie and Monivaird, forms a line of separation between Crieff and Muthill on the north-east. Leaving Crieff, it passes between this parish, and its *quoad sacra* part, named Innerpeffary; and, keeping its devious course, for at least thirty-five miles through the vale to which it gives the name, falls then into the Tay. This river, although generally beautiful in its slowly flowing waters, yet at times, is truly terrific, when swollen by the mountain torrents. It is to be regretted that no bridge is over this river, at Innerpeffary, for oftentimes, by reason of its flooding, the people of that quarter cannot attend church. But we do not despair of this evil being remedied, as, on each side of the river, the honourable proprietors of the land are both rich and liberal. Innerpeffary may here be noticed as a place of some interest. It has a large room with a library for the use of students in the neighbourhood, founded by David Lord Madderty; and beside it, there is an old church, now the burying-place of the Perth and Strathallan families, and also close by the river is the old castle of Lord Madderty,—all of which remind us of other days.—The Machony is another river which takes its rise from the confluence of rills as they descend from the heights of Blair-in-roan, and flowing along, is considerably increased before discharging itself into the Earn, near the bridge of Kinkell. Though not remarkable in itself, it is somewhat so, in its name, for as it signifies in the Gaelic a fight or battle, so we are led by it to think of Blair-in-roan, which also signifies the spotted battle field, as the place where the Romans and Caledonians fought. On the other side of the parish are the Knaik and the Allan, the only other two rivers in it. The former, rising in Glenlich-horn, and passing by the steep banks which form the west boundary of Ardoch Camps, joins the latter, to form the south limit of the parish, and after that moves slowly on, and meets the Forth near to Stirling by the way of Dunblane. All these rivers are excellent for small trout, the Earn especially, for pike, sea-trouts or whittings, and large salmon.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—Like other parts of the country, this has its variety of stone,—as grayish sandstone at Ardoch, reddish sandstone at Lucas, grayish sandstone at lower Concraig, and at upper Concraig black trap, or as some style it, black whin rock. The three first are used for building, the other is excellent for making roads.

The sandstone or freestone appears in strata dipping northwards at an angle of  $70^{\circ}$ , with till sand interposed between the strata.

The trap rock, however, is the one which will be most interesting to the geologist, and that not so much in its nature as in its history. At short intervals, it rises in ridges, and is again broken down, and thus forming a range, stretches not only across the parish, but across the island, from sea to sea. Below the loch of Drummond, as also on the side of the loch, it rises about 50 feet, and in the former place is perpendicular in its front, and as smooth as if cut with a chisel or hammer. From these two great rocks, the places in the neighbourhood may have received the name of Con-craig.

Several species of fossil remains have, at different periods, been found in our peat mosses and marl-pits, such as the heads of oxen of uncommon size, and horns of the elk and forest deer; so that we have proof that certain species of animals, which once frequented this part of the country, are now there extinct.

*Soil.*—Along the sides of the Earn and the Allan, the haughs are for the most part a light loam, on beds of sand and gravel, which, with an admixture of lime and marl, produce very luxuriant crops. Between the middle or separation ridge of the parish, and the haugh ground, the soil may be considered to consist of three kinds; one light, with a free bottom, which does not retain water; this is next to the haugh ground, and is excellent for producing grass; the next kind is a strong sandy soil, with a mixture of gravel, but with so much of a till bottom, and so cohesive in its nature, as not to admit the water to pass through it; and the other is so poor and moorish, as only to send up heath and whins. However, almost to the hill top, from the banks of the rivers, the ground is found to be made productive by cleaning, by draining, and by manuring; and so every year, we see a little field made out, farther up the hill. The low grounds especially are very productive when limed, and drained, and manured. Lime to warm and quicken the soil is much required; but that advantage, as yet, is almost denied us, for we have no lime nearer than Loch Earn or Stirling, a distance of about twenty miles.

*Zoology.*—Few places abound more in game than this. Our heath-clad hills and rising grounds are everywhere filled with them. Yet they are not so abundant as they were once, by reason of improvements and cultivation. Goats have entirely disappeared from this quarter, also the forest deer; but there is a sufficiency of

grouse, black-cock, woodcock, partridges, pheasants, plovers, wild ducks, wild geese, snipes, hares, &c. The principal sorts of vermin are foxes, polecats, and badgers.

The following account may give an idea of the quantity of game in this quarter. Killed on the Perth estate, anno 1835, hares, 1521; grouse, 842; rabbits, 6268, &c. The large park of Drummond Castle is still well-stocked with fallow deer, which adds much to the beauty of its pleasure grounds. The stag has now been driven up to Glenartney for his abode.

*Botany and Plantations.*—Although we had nothing more under this head to mention, than the garden of Drummond Castle, yet that should be enough to induce the botanist to visit our strath. It may be said to be in its style partly Dutch and partly French. The castle stands upon an elevated rock, and on its south side is the famed flower garden,—famed for the manner in which it is laid out, for its locality, and its size. Scarcely a breath of wind can injure the most delicate flower in it; for on all sides it is protected from the blast; and every thing about it, as its lofty trees, its descending stairs, its little ponds, and its lovely walks, with varied flowers on every hand, render it truly enchanting. We attempt not to number the different kinds of heath, of roses, &c. which are to be found in it; but we notice one kind of plant, in its hot-house, which lately attracted much attention. It was the rare plant *Aloe Americana*. In 1832, June the 30th, it began to flower. Its temperature was the common heat of the hot-house, and it was nourished by frequent waterings. Its height was 23 feet, circumference 11 inches at the bottom, and 1 inch at the top; branches 29, and flowers on each branch 89, in all 2581 flowers. The flowering continued during the month of July, and when all fully blown, the plant died.

What made this plant a matter of curiosity, was, the common belief, that it only flowers once in the hundred years, and then dies; and on that account it was visited by most of the florists in Scotland.

Some rare plants are also found in the parish, such as the *Pyrola rotundifolia*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Polygala vulgaris*, *Eupatorium cannabinum*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Scabiosa arvensis*, *Blechnum boreale*, &c. The plantations are to a considerable extent, and consist of fir, in its various kinds, larch, oak, birch, sweet chestnuts, and limes. The largest plantation in the parish is that around Torlum Hill, which is said to contain about 600 acres of Scotch

fir. But besides it, there are others on the Drummond estate, as also on the estates of Ardoch, Braco, Orchill, and Culdees, of pretty large size. In fact, the plantations of Strathearn are amongst its beauties, and contribute much to fertilize it.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Accounts of the Parish.*—The historical accounts of this parish are mostly of a traditionary nature; and many of them not much to be depended upon.\* All that is written concerning this parish is to be found in the books of the Presbytery of Auchterarder, and in the parochial registers of the kirk-session, and heritors' book. In the kirk-session records, are contained lists of marriages, of births, and baptisms; an account of the distribution of the funds; and of the meetings and doings of the kirk-session. The earliest date of these records is February 2, 1676; and from that time to 1692, incidents are noticed with great regularity. Afterwards, the register is lost, until 1704, when Hally, the first Presbyterian minister, took charge of them, and kept them very carefully, until 1754. After Hally's time, they become irregular and confused, with the exception of the last few years. It is to be hoped, however, that this part of our parochial economy will be more attended to throughout the bounds of the presbytery than in times past, as it has lately fallen under the particular inspection of that reverend court.

*Eminent Persons.*—As an individual eminent in the church, we cannot pass by the Reverend William Hally, minister of this parish, so well known in the religious world, especially in connection with the revival at Cambuslang, &c.

It is well known that the year 1688 was the glorious time of freedom to the Church of Scotland, from the power and persecution of Popery and Prelacy; but it is also well known that in many parishes these churches held their sway for years, after that blessed revolution. Muthill was one of these. By law, the Episco-

\* Passing along the military road to Ardoch, and near the Mill of Steps, there are still to be seen the foundations of a blacksmith's house, who lived seventy years ago, and who had a beautiful daughter. This young woman could not endure the frowns of her stepmother, and with others embarked for America. On her way thither the ship was captured and carried into Morocco. And the tradition bears that the blacksmith's daughter became the Empress of Morocco! An old farmer, who died about eighteen months ago, told this tale to the writer, and said that he remembered her well, and that she often wrote to her friends at the Mill of Steps. It is farther related that she left two sons, who, about forty years ago, are said to have applied to the government of this country for aid to place them upon the throne of their deceased father, against an usurping kinsman, on the plea that they were of British descent. But the two young men are said to have been entrapped and cut off by some ambitious relative.

pilians were ejected ; and, from the history of that trying time, we find that the presbytery, *jure devoluto*, sought out for an able minister to this parish, but, that it was not until the year 1704 that Hally was ordained by them. In this, the presbytery was fortunate in their choice, for no one could have filled the situation better than he. With a heart devoted to the work given him to do by his Lord and Master, he began, and continued, to labour amongst the people for about half a century ; and although many years have passed since his demise, Hally yet lives in the recollections of the people, for his unblemished character and Christian boldness on the side of truth. At his settlement he had the greatest opposition to contend with. The Episcopalians, although ejected by law, still held out against his ordination, and their minister was resolved to possess the pulpit. "The opposition," says the presbytery record, "proceeded to the extent of a riot. Several individuals of the parish kept the doors of the kirk and kirk-yard, armed with swords and staves, which they made use of, in beating and wounding several that had come there to hear the word."

But the presbytery persevered in their duty, and went on with the ordination of Hally, in the church-yard ; and in that place he preached for many Sabbaths, oftentimes pelted with stones, by his wicked opponents. At last, through the kind interference of the Duke of Athol, and the firmness shown by the presbytery, and especially by Hally himself, the contest was given up, and the keys of the church were surrendered to him. This took place in March 20, 1705. And then Hally entered that pulpit, which he filled in an eminent degree for forty-nine years and eleven months. \*

Hally was succeeded by the two Mr Scotts, father and son,—the former minister twelve years,—the latter forty-two ; these again were succeeded by Mr Russell. They were all faithful servants of God,—and, as a proof of this, there has been no Secession church established here ; and we can say of the parish, at the present time, that there is not perhaps another, in Scotland, where the people are more attached to the Established Church.

*The Drummond Family.*—Few families in Scotland can trace a longer line of descent, or boast of nobler alliance, than the house of Drummond.† Its founder was Maurice, a Hungarian noble-

\* *Vide* Robe's Narrative of the Revival of Cambuslang.

† *Vide* Genealogy of the House of Drummond, by the Honourable William Drummond, afterwards first Viscount of Strathallen, 1681,—one who was as illustrious by his deeds as by his writings. In his publication, are several curious and interesting documents, which merit the attention of the antiquarian.

man, who was one of the attendants of Edgar Atheling, Prince of England, and his sisters, Margaret and Christian, when, in 1068, they took refuge in Scotland, to avoid the insidious designs of William the Conqueror; and who, upon Margaret's elevation to the Scottish throne, was, for his eminent services to the royal fugitives, rewarded with a grant of lands, and distinguished by the name of Drummond.\* After a continued succession in the male line from Maurice the founder, through twenty-five generations, the estate of Perth and representation of the house of Drummond devolved upon the Honourable Clementina Sarah Drummond, the only survivor of her father, James Lord Perth.

In 1807, this lady was married to the Honourable Peter Robert Burrell, eldest son of Lord Gwydir, who succeeded his father as Baron Gwydir, 1820, and his mother as Baron Willoughby de Eresby, 1828; and thus the estate of Perth, and the representation of the house of Drummond, belong now to the Right Honourable Lord and Lady Willoughby de Eresby, who, with their family, are not more distinguished by their rank, than by their kindness and liberality to all around them. Their residence is Drummond Castle, when in this country, which merits some attention. It stands at the foot of Torlum, in the western part of the vale of Strathearn, and has a site of considerable elevation, rising gradually from the public road. It was built in 1490, by John first Lord Drummond, one every way distinguished both for his virtues and his illustrious deeds. Some writings of his, which reflect honour upon him, may be found in the genealogical account already referred to.

The building now exhibits all the appearance of having suffered from the hand of time and from violence. Tradition says, that it was besieged, taken, and garrisoned by Cromwell's army; and that, at the Revolution of 1689, it was demolished, with the exception of some fragments, which are still standing. The south wing was fitted up for a library by the late Lord Perth, but is now an armoury. Respect is paid by the present family to the abode of their ancestors, for some repairs were made last summer upon the old walls, to preserve their ruins from further destruction.

\* An interpretation is given of this word by an ancestor of the family as follows: Drum signifies a *height*—*onde*, a *wave*; hence the name Drummond was given to Maurice, to express how gallantly he conducted through the swelling waves the ship in which the royal fugitives had embarked for Hungary, when they were forced, by stress of weather, upon the Scottish coast, where they were received by Malcolm with royal munificence.

The modern castle is a little east from the old, on the same rock, and forms two sides of a square, and although not, at all, such a mansion as the family would have, were they residing constantly in this place, it is, however, comfortable as a summer residence during their visit, and is often the abode of the first nobility of the land.

In the castle, there are a few paintings which interest the connoisseur. Amongst these, we may notice the following: Charles I. with his Queen and children, Duchess of Ancaster, Lady Ann Gordon, Lady Ann Drummond, Lady Sarah Bruce, Cardinal Howard, Lord and Lady Perth, James V., James VI., two of Queen Mary, one in her sorrowful, the other in her happier days, a full-length of Peregrine Beatie, Lord Willoughby de Eresby, 1555, George second Marquis of Huntly, the Duke of Perth, James fourth Earl of Perth, Lord High Chancellor of Scotland, 1684, the Chancellor's son, &c.

*Other Families.*—Other families of high respectability connected with this parish, are those of the house of Ardoch, of Orchill, and Braco; and Lord Viscount Strathallan, who lives at Strathallan Castle, Blackford parish, has also a part of his property in this parish.

*Eminent Men.*—Few individuals connected with this parish have risen to any great distinction, in science or literature, if we except Dr Barclay, so famed for his skill in anatomy, and his writings thereon. His uncle, the Rev. John Barclay, founder of the sect styled the Bereans, may be noticed as born in this parish.

*Rental.*—The valued rent of the parish in 1835 was L. 7784, 9s. 4d. Scotch. Real rent in 1831, L. 14,937 Sterling.

*Camps at Ardoch.*—All antiquaries who have written on the subject of Roman camps in Scotland, have alluded to those at Ardoch. These camps deserve this distinction, as the most entire in this country, nay, perhaps in Britain; but we believe they would not have been half so much noticed, were it not for the mystery about them, as to whether they were the *Castra Stativa* of Agricola, when on this side of Bodotria, skirmishing with the Caledonian leader Galgacus, or the abode of some other Roman or foreign foe.

It is not our intention, in noticing these camps, to dispute with the many great authorities, from Richard Cirencester, Hector Boetius, &c., down to a Lieutenant-Colonel Miller, who have published on this subject; but we shall adhere to the life of Agricola, written by his son-in-law, as the only common source to

which any historian can go for information, regarding the monuments, and transactions of that great commander, who came to subject the hardy tribes of Caledonia to the Roman sway. And certainly from that Life, we are as much entitled to fix upon Ardoch, and its neighbourhood, as the scenes where Agricola abode and repulsed Galgacus, previous to the decisive battle apud Montem Grampium, as others are, to fix upon the neighbourhood of Loch Orr, in Fife, Blairgowrie, or Battle Dykes, north of Forfar, or Keithic, near Brechin. We consider the camps at Ardoch and the other places of that nature, connected with them, to have been the abodes of the Romans, in the year 82, when they came to invade the inhospitable regions of the north.

The whole space which was occupied by the Romans in their encampment, at Ardoch, consists of four departments, viz. the station, the procestrium, the great camp, and the less. The station is a permanent camp, situated upon an eminence close by the public road from Stirling to Crieff. The position was happily chosen for defence; on all sides the camp was protected; on the west, by a defence from the banks of the Knaik, rising fifty feet above the surface of the water, and having two fossæ between it and the banks; on the south, by a deep morass that rose a considerable way eastward, with its two fossæ also; and on the east and north, by deep intrenchments of five ditches, and six ramparts parallel to the station; all of which were very sufficient to guard those within, and to keep off besiegers.

The area of the station within the intrenchments may still be seen, and is of an oblong form, 420 feet by 375, with its four sides nearly facing the cardinal points of the compass. The place of the Prætorium or general's quarter is a regular square of 60 feet in the side, in the rear or part farthest distant from the enemy; but it is marked off rather irregularly,—for on inspection, it is not found to be exactly in the middle between the gates, nor parallel with those of the station. It is, however, elevated above the general level of the ground, and appears to have been inclosed by a stone wall. Within this, also, there are the foundations of a building 30 feet by 27, which gives some probability to the conjecture, that there was a place of worship once there, which is still called the Chapel hill.\*

\* From one of the sides of the Prætorium it is said that there was a hole, which went downwards in a sloping direction for many fathoms, in which it was generally believed treasures as well as Roman antiquities might be found. In order to ascertain this, a man, who had been condemned by the baron court of a neighbouring

Of the four gates which belonged to the Roman station, three only can now be distinguished, the fourth being scarcely traceable. Fronting the Prætorium is the Prætorian Gate, crossing the north lines in an oblique direction. Opposite to that gate, and behind the Prætorium where the Decuman gate should be, is a road leading out of the camp, which may have been the Decuman; and onwards to the right and left of the Prætorium, are to be seen the two, which were called principal gates, as being at the ends of the principal street which crossed the camp in front of the Prætorium. Upon the Polybean system of castrametation, this fort would accommodate 1200 men.

Immediately adjacent to the north side of the station, is the Procestrium or pro castrum (for a camp,) or an addition to the other, as probably used by Agricola for containing his men and baggage, when he thought of dividing his army into three parts, in order to watch the movements of Galgacus, and fight him from the neighbouring hills. This procestrium seems to have been strongly fortified, and a subsequent work to the other, for part of the area of the great camp was included in it; but its intrenchments are levelled by the plough, while the corner of the former is yet visible. Its south gate is also to be seen, as connecting it with the station, and this again with the fragments of another gate on the north side. It was of an oblong shape, consisting of 1060 feet by 900, and is capable of accommodating 4000 men.

North-west of the procestrium is the great camp,—so styled

Lord, upon obtaining a pardon, agreed to be let down by a rope. He, at first, brought up from a great depth, Roman spears, helmets, fragments of bridles, &c. ; but on being let down a second time was killed by foul air. A gentleman, who lived at the House of Ardoch, anno 1720, ordered the mouth of the hole to be covered with a mill stone, to prevent hares running into it when pursued by his dogs: but as there was earth to a considerable depth laid over the mill-stone, it cannot now be found, although diligent search has been made for it. Should it ever be discovered, it will probably lead to a tank which was formed by the Romans, in order to receive water filtered from the river Knaik. Sir William Stirling, a former proprietor, inclosed the whole camp with a stone wall, so as to protect the interesting remains from injury by the ploughshare, or in any other way by the hand of man; and we have little doubt that his successors will be equally careful, in all respects, of these Roman vestigia.

Many stone coffins have been found at different times, in digging about the camps or near them; and the skeletons contained in them have been of an uncommon size. About a mile west from the camps, a stone coffin was found, containing a skeleton seven feet long. A mile and a half distant in the muir of Orchill, another was found of the same length, in Cairn Wochil. These have generally been in cairns or heaps of stones, which may be accounted for, from a practice in former days of throwing a stone upon the respected dead, or upon any place remarkable, in passing by. So among the Highlanders there is still a saying, that if one shall do a favour to another, a "stone shall be added to his cairn;"—that is, his grave shall be remembered and respected.

from its size. Its mean length is 2800 feet, and its mean breadth 1950; it would, therefore, according to the Polybean system, hold about 26,000 men, and this was what induced General Roy to believe that it was in this camp that Agricola held his great army, previous to his dividing it into three bodies, in order to meet and conquer the Caledonians.

The form of this camp is oblong, but not so regular as that of a parallelogram,—a fact which seems to prove that the Romans did not stick close to mathematical nicety, where the nature of the ground did not well permit. The public road to the north, via Crieff, known of old, as the military road, enters by its south gate, and so has cut down one-half of the epaulment which covered it; but the other half still remains rather entire. The north gate is a little east of the road, covered by a straight traverse, and another gate on the west is in the same way protected. On the east side, towards the north, there is a gate that has been defended, not only by a square redoubt, within the lines, but also by a clavicle,—from which circumstance, it may be supposed that a weak legion was there quartered.

On the west side of this great camp is a smaller one of an oblong shape. Its size is 1910 by 1340 feet, and it would afford accommodation for 12,000 men. To the antiquary, this one is very interesting, especially in tracing the itinera of Agricola. It is evidently higher in position than the other camps—one-half of it lies within the other camp, which is adjacent to it—and the fact of its being left so very entire, would incline us to fix upon it, as the abode of the third part of the Roman army that remained with their leader, whilst the others were encamped at Strageath, and Dealgin Ross; for the entireness of the camp proves that it was the last occupied, and that Agricola left it in great haste with his third division, to aid the 9th legion, who were then almost subdued, in the camp of Dealgin Ross, on the plains of Comrie.

As to the fact of these being the camps of Agricola, we shall only refer to Tacitus. We take up the history of Agricola while at the isthmus between the estuaries of the Forth and the Clyde, and trace his steps onwards to the Grampians; and, from the plain reading of the Latin text, throughout the fourth year, it appears he was employed there in erecting forts to secure the conquests which he had made on the other side. This was the case, unless we adopt the very improbable notion that the two rivers named Glota and Bodotria

were on the borders, or were the boundaries between Scotland and England, and that the Taus is the Solway, &c.—which view would overturn all our conceptions of the Roman movements; and would be making the Taus of Tacitus not that beautiful river which separates Fife from Angus and Perthshire; the Glota not the Clyde; and the Mons Grampius not that grand mountain range so well known to every Scotsman, but some little hill in the south.

But the rivers Forth and Clyde answer too well to Tacitus' description of Clota and Bodotria. "Nam Clota et Bodotria, diversi maris æstibus per immensum revectæ, angusto terrarum spatio diremuntur. Quod tum præsiidiis firmabatur; atque omnis propior sinus tenebatur, summotis velut in aliam insulam hostibus." This description cannot be applied to any other rivers between Anglesey and the Grampian Hills, but to the Forth and Clyde.

This boundary, says Tacitus, would have been sufficient to limit the Roman conquests in Britain, had it been consistent with the bravery of their army or the glory of their name. But as it was not, then we read of their crossing the Frith of Clyde, some say at Dumbarton, the following year. With the new nations spoken of as lying to the west, or opposite the coast of Ireland, he had many successful encounters; and having subdued them, he placed forts with a view to future operations, and afterwards probably returned to the isthmus from which he went, there to winter and make ready for his Caledonian invasion in the spring.

But, before leaving this part of the history, we would advert to a difficulty as to the third year's undertakings.—"Vastatis usque ad Taum (æstuario nomen est) nationibus." Agricola is said to have continued his devastations through the several nations to the mouth of the Tay. This being the case, it is evident he must have returned to the isthmus, where he erected his forts, for his undertaking in the fourth and fifth years were of course posterior to that in the third; and in this view, we require not to correct the historian's words, as some have done, by saying, that by the Tay he meant the Solway Frith, or the Tweed, or the Tyne. In the fifth year, it is said that Agricola placed forces towards the west, on this side of the Clyde, which shewed that he was meditating an invasion against the Caledonians. That invasion he undertook in the summer of the following year; but as to his route from the isthmus towards the camp in which the 9th legion was attacked in the night, and afterwards to the Grampian Hills,

where the decisive battle took place, we are left entirely to conjecture.

Next he encamps at Ardoch, eight miles and a-half from the former station, which agrees with the calculations of Ptolemy and Richard; and, granting all this, the remaining part of Agricola's history, so far as the parish of Muthill is concerned, becomes plain. We have only, in accordance with others, to state, that Agricola being apprized that his enemy surpassed him in numbers, and in the knowledge of the country, and that they meant to attack him in divers bands, divided his army into three parts, and marched, to prevent their surrounding him. One part encamped at Dealgin Ross, the other at Strageath, and the other remained with Agricola, in the small oblong camp at Ardoch.

On this hypothesis, it was the 9th legion which was assailed by the Caledonians, during night, and had their guards slain in the trenches of Dealgin Ross; and this may have been owing to the information which the Caledonians might receive of the 9th legion, as being the weakest "ut maxime invalidam." During the time that they were engaged in the camp, Agricola heard from his spies, in what direction the great body of the Caledonian army lay, and as it seems to have been between him and the camp, so he hastened forward, and commanded the lightest of his foot and cavalry to charge them, whilst yet engaged in the rear, and the whole army presently after to give a mighty shout. This attack of Agricola and his men upon the rear-guard of the Caledonians must have been in a small glen, in the west end of this parish, two miles south of Dealgin Ross; and so the design of the shout would be, that the Romans in the camps of Dealgin Ross might hear and know that those in the small camp of Ardoch had come to their assistance. This may be inferred from the Roman soldiers regaining courage, and beating off their enemy to such a degree, that, had not the woods and marshes served for shelter to the fugitives, the war had been concluded by this victory.

We therefore fix upon Blair-in-roan as the place of the decisive battle between Galgacus and Agricola at this time. Of this we have presumptive evidence,—the name itself, as signifying the spotted battle-field,—a small stream which runs through the glen, and is one of the sources of the Machony, named Tai-na-blair, signifying the stream of the battle-field,—besides, the several upright stones in that quarter, still called by the country people the Roman stones,—and in addition to all this, the discovery a few years

ago, of a very large urn filled with the ashes of the dead, and near by it, several stone coffins, covered over with a heap of stones or a cairn.

The other camp or station of the Romans was at Strageath, upon the banks of the Earn, near to Innerpeffary. Its original work appears to have been of small dimensions, and the intended additions to it, seem never to have been fully executed. All its entrenchments are now levelled by the plough.

### III.—POPULATION.

In 1755, the population amounted to	2902,
1770,	2640, decrease 262
1792,	2948, increase 308
1821,	2925, decrease 23
1831,	3297, increase 372
1836,	3421, increase 124

Thus in eighty-one years the population has increased 519, which has been chiefly owing to the improvement of land; for in proportion as more of it is brought under crop, more hands are required. The increase has been both in the villages and in the country.

In Muthill village there are	1210
In Braco village, Ardoch,	384
In the country,	1827
Number of families in the parish,	695
chiefly employed in agriculture,	158
in trade, manufacture, or handicraft,	197
inhabited houses,	483
The average number of births for the last five years,	80
deaths,	50
marriages,	25

The number of illegitimate children during the last year was 6.

*Character of the People, &c.*—Of the inhabitants we may safely say, that they live comfortably and soberly, and at peace with one another. We have not the temptations of a populous city to contend with—neither have we the influx of strangers to captivate us with their novelties and oftentimes with their vices—neither have we any residenters wasting overgrown fortunes amongst us, and exciting the envy or dislike of their poorer fellow men. But we have a rural and simple-hearted people, remarkably kind to each other, and given to “rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.”

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Husbandry.*—This parish consists of ten estates. About two-thirds of the whole belong to Drummond.

Most of the heritors reside on their properties, and agricultural improvements are promoted by them. This is very perceptible in the draining of meadow and marshy ground, and in the

corn-fields rising higher and higher upon the acclivity of our hills ; also in the attention paid to the cropping of land, and the adoption of improved implements of husbandry. The order of cropping in general, is that of five divisions, viz. after lea, oats—next turnips and potatoes—next barley, with rye-grass and clover,—and then grass for hay or cutting,—and afterwards the lea.

Wheat is seldom sown in this quarter, because less profitable than barley. Besides it is an uncertain crop, for by our long winters and continued frosts, there is a danger, some seasons, of its being altogether lost. Much attention is now paid to the growing of turnips, by manuring with bone dust, &c., which crop is found to be very profitable.

*Distilleries.*—Connected with the agriculture of this parish is the distillation of whisky, which is much to be applauded in every thing, except the object for which it is made. The three distilleries here are advantageous in the consumption of the grain, and the feeding of cattle, and the manuring of the ground, as also in employing many workmen ; but when we think of the 100,000 gallons which they annually send forth, as of so little benefit to the human constitution, but rather very productive of much evil both to the soul and body, we would pause before we commend them ; and say that we hope for better days—days when the public purse will not be filled by “Scotland’s scaith.”

*Produce.*—The following table will show the gross amount and value of raw produce raised yearly, on an average price for the last ten years :—

Arable land 11564 acres, rented at 30s. per acre.	Oats, 2312.8 7 bolls at 17s.	L. 137,615
	Barley, 2312.8 6 bolls at L. 1, 2	152,711
	Green crop, 2312.8 Do. at L. 10 per ac.	23,120
	Hay, 2312.8 200st. p.ac. at 6d. p. st.	231,200
	Pasture, 2312.8 Do. at L. 3 per acre.	6942
Plantation 2503 do.	At L. 20 per acre in 20 years.	50,060
Uncultivated 12,170 do.	At 10s. per acre.	6025
<hr/> Total 26,237 do.		<hr/> L. 607,733

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

In this part of our statistics, the statements will be better understood, by noticing Muthill and Ardoch separately, for the latter is now a parish of itself *quoad sacra*.

*Market-Towns, &c.*—The village of Muthill once had its markets, but all these have been properly given up, owing to its nearness to Crieff. The public road to the south passes through the village. At present, its population is about 1210, chiefly consisting of the labouring classes, and those connected with them.

About sixty of its inhabitants are employed in weaving cotton, which is sent to them from Glasgow.

Few villages, we think, can be compared with Muthill, as to the beauty of its locality, its cleanliness, and the simple and artless manners of its people. All its poor are well supplied, and none of them are allowed to beg; whilst, on the other hand, none of its inhabitants are so rich as to keep their hands from working. But what strikes the visitor of Muthill most, is, the amphitheatre of hills around it; and then, its stately church, unequalled, it is said, by any country church in the land.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is well situated for the convenience of the major part of the people; and, with the exception of 50 in the district of Blair-in-roan, all have it in their power to attend, and do attend the church regularly. Those in Blair-in-roan attend at sacramental times, but in general go to Comrie, because they are two or three miles nearer that place.

The parish church is of a recent date. The old building was condemned in 1825, having stood four centuries. Spottiswood says, that “Bishop Ochiltree succeeded, a wealthy prelate, and well esteemed; and so purchased to his see a great part of the forfeited lands of Strathearn, adorned the cathedral of Dunblane, built the bridge of Knaik and Machant, with the church of Muthill; and did in his time divers other good works.” The ruins of this ancient fabric serve to suggest the thoughts of other days, and other men, who, although dead, yet live in dear recollection. Beside the ruins, a monument, erected by the people, in memory of their late beloved pastor, Mr Russell, may be noticed; and another erected with some taste, beside the grave of Mr Erskine, son of an Episcopal clergyman, who lived and died here.

The foundation stone of the new church was laid in March 14th 1826, and the building was finished in August 1828; expense of the whole, L. 6900; it is of the Gothic style, and is seated for 1600 people. The sittings are all free, and are divided amongst the heritors, in the proportion, in which they paid for the building of the church.

The manse stands on the north side of the village, with the glebe around it. It was built in 1720, rebuilt, or nearly so, in 1782, and since that time, it has been constantly receiving additions and repairs, as every old house must do.

The glebe, inclusive of the site of the manse, and of the garden, consists of 9 acres of excellent land, and the stipend is 16

chalders of grain; the one-half meal, and the other barley; with the allowance of L. 10 for communion elements.

Besides the parish church, there is in the village a neat building, where the Episcopalians of Strathearn assemble on the Sabbath, and other days.

The population of Muthill, exclusive of Ardoch district, is, 2472; and of these about 44 are Episcopalians, and 9 others, Dissenters.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of poor on the roll is 80; and the average sum given to each of them annually is L. 2, or L. 160 in all. This sum is made up from the church collections, L. 52; from Ardoch collection, L. 3, 10s.; and from a voluntary assessment, on the part of the heritors. And it would be ungrateful not to mention the meal-list of Lady Willoughby, on which there are commonly 60 poor persons, and who have also from the same Lady, their rents paid, and an allowance of fuel and clothing.

*Societies.*—A Bible and Missionary Society has for some years been established, in this parish, and is supported by collections on Mondays after the dispensation of the sacrament, which is once in the four months, or three times in the year. The sum raised in this way, hitherto, has been about L. 26 per annum, which, with some other occasional contributions, prove that the people are somewhat alive to the spiritual wants of their fellow men. And this Christian feeling, we would hope, is on the increase amongst us, for during the last half-year, we have collected L. 49 for the General Assembly's four schemes.

*Savings Bank.*—A savings bank has been in operation for more than two years, and promises to do well. At present the amount of its funds is L. 270.

*Education.*—On Muthill side there are eight schools, whereof the parish school is the most important, and by far the most numerous attended. The salary is the maximum, viz. L. 34, 4s. 4½d. which, together with a commodious house and garden, value L. 10, salaries of kirk-session and heritors' clerk, &c. L. 12, 10s. and school fees, L. 16, 10s. make the situation of the schoolmaster somewhat comfortable, although not so much so as it should be. The number of scholars attending the parish school has of late years been about 100, but it is likely that the number will soon be increased, as at present a very spacious and elegant school-house is building, which will contain many more than the former, and be

much more comfortable and healthy. As to the success of the parish school, we have only to remark, that frequently young men have gone from it to college, where they have been highly approved of both as to their scholarship and good behaviour. Three of the other schools are partly endowed by Lady Willoughby. The other four have no endowment, which is a matter of regret, as no teacher of abilities will accept of them, or if he do, his stay will be but short. The number of scholars instructed in all these, annually, as found at their examinations, has been about 400. We have also about 200 attending the Sabbath schools, a part of education truly important and useful.

*Libraries.*—There is one supported by subscription in the village; also in the reading-room furnished by the Right Honourable Lord Willoughby de Eresby, besides a sufficient supply of Scotch and English newspapers, there is a collection of books on agricultural pursuits for the farmers; but the most valuable library in this quarter is that of Innerpeffary, for the use of ministers and students. It was left by Lord Madderty, with a small salary for the librarian, which, with the fees of a school that he teaches in one of the wings of the building, afford him a small living. In the library, there are many rare and excellent books, especially on divinity.

*ARDOCH.—Statistics of Ardoch quoad sacra.*—The perambulated bounds of the Chapel district (now a parish *quoad sacra*) extend into the parishes of Dunblane and Blackford, and are as follows: To Glenlichhorn and Green Scores on the west; Muirhouses, Cameron hills, and Redford on the north; Rahallach, Read and Butter Gask, on the east; and Middle Cambuscheny and Toddleburn, on the south.

The church was built in 1780, and stiled by the constitution "the Chapel of Ease at Ardoch." A very thriving village is now rising up beside it, named Braco village, from the circumstance that it consists of feus on the estate of Braco. But we confess that we should have preferred the name Ardoch.

Under the fostering and faithful care of the Reverend Messrs Simpson, Logan, Millar, Young, M'Farlane, and Laird, the members of the congregation have so increased, that there are as many communicants who attend the dispensation of the sacrament, as there are seats, in the church. About a mile and a half south from the church of Ardoch, there is a handful of the United Secession, who have a meeting-house or church. A Mr

Patterson is their minister—number, young and old, 138—stipend promised, L. 60. We give the following statement of the district of Ardoch, as furnished to us readily by its present minister, Mr Laird.

Population.—In Muthil parish,	949	Belonging to the Established Church,	1401
In Dunblane,	601	United Secession,	159
In Blackford,	85	Episcopalians,	12
		Original Seceders,	6
	1585	Relief,	6
		Bereans,	1

For the care of these 1401 people, we regret to say, that the minister has only a bond from the managers of the church for L. 80, with a free house or manse and garden, and keep for a cow; and we regret, also, that the church cannot contain the people.

The people have done much for their church and for their minister; but yet they require some aid to enlarge their church, and some endowment for the better support of their minister; and we trust that both will soon be granted them.

Besides a prosperous church, they have also a prosperous school. A hundred children are well instructed there, in the common branches of learning. The schoolmaster's income arises altogether from the school fees, which doubtless should be otherwise. Another school, where a very few children are taught, is about a mile to the north of the village, and has attached to it L. 2 a year of endowment, left by the Rev. William Hally, minister of Muthill. There are also two unendowed schools in the quarter of Dunblane.

The church is conveniently placed for the district, and has attached to it a space of country of nearly seventy square miles. Number of sittings in the church 600; collections annually, L. 40. Average number of births, 78.

Braco village is rapidly enlarging in its buildings, and in its population. At present it has 180 families, and a population of 384. For their moral improvement there is a well-selected library, kept up by subscription. There are also in it two cattle-markets during the year; and it has also its four public-houses.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

During the last forty years, the population of the parish has increased from 2948 to 3421: its schools have increased from three to ten; and its cultivated fields have increased to double or treble their number. Of Presbyterian Dissenters, the number has been lessened from 160 to 9, and of Roman Catholics from 42 to 2. Other changes have not been so conducive to its well being and

comfort. We allude to the increase of public-houses, from 7 to 20, throughout the parish; and especially in the village, from 3 to 11,—which during last year retailed 1583 gallons of whisky.

August 1837.

## PARISH OF GLEDOVAN.

PRESBYTERY OF AUCHTERARDER, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.

THE REV. JOHN BROWN, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

THE changes in this parish have been so few, that the writer has little to add to the Report which he furnished to the former Statistical Account.

*Name.*—The parish derives its name from the water of Devon, which runs through it in a narrow glen, in a direction nearly from west to east.

It is situated in the middle of the Ochils,—and is 6 English miles in length, and rather more than 4 in breadth.

### II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Parochial Registers.*—These commence in the year 1700.

*Land-owners.*—There are five land-owners in the parish, viz. Lord Camperdown, J. S. Hepburn, Esq., Robert Haig, Esq. William Low, Esq., and Miss Jane Rutherford.

### III.—POPULATION.

Amount of population in 1801,	.	149	
1811,	.	170	
1821,	.	139	
1831,	.	192	
Number of families in the parish,			34
chiefly employed in agriculture,			13
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,			7

There were no illegitimate births in the parish during the last three years.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

The farms are the same in extent, and managed in the same way, as reported in the former Account: the arable and pasture land remains the same. Of the arable land, seventeen acres have been, at considerable expense, prepared for being watered by the river Devon.