

a load. Wood is consumed in considerable quantities,—principally the useless branches of the firs used for country purposes.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

From the last Statistical Account of this parish, we are warranted to infer, that much has been done to advance the style of agriculture pursued, to reclaim lands, and improve them by draining, embanking, &c. The lands close upon the north side of the Earn are now never, I believe, flooded by the river, though often kept for a considerable period under water by the rain and melting snow from the higher grounds. There is now a considerable quantity of bone dust and lime used. More of both would be employed, were not the distance from Perth (thirteen miles) so great. Should any railway ever come near us, it will be a great encouragement to attempt reclaiming many parts of the moor lands which now lie hopelessly waste. Every great farm has a thrashing-mill attached to it, and there are grinding mills, driven by water, at an easy distance from every part of the parish.

The principal road through the parish is very good, and now 100 stones of coal are not considered an unreasonable load, even for so long and continuous a journey. It would add greatly to the beauty of the parish, were more hard-wood trees planted along the hedge-rows, and the fences of every description kept in better repair.

September 1837.

PARISH OF BALQUHIDDER.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNBLANE, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING. *

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name is compounded of the words, *baile-chul-tir*, signifying the town or territory at the back of the country.

Extent, &c.—The parish is about 18 miles in length, and between 6 and 7 miles in breadth, and comprises many straths, glens, and valleys, and a vast number of hills and lofty rocks. It seems proper to mention some of these.—Strathyre, signifying in Gaelic the *warm strath*; Glenbuckie, signifying *the glen where roebucks*

* Drawn up by the late incumbent, the Rev. Mr M'Gregor.

abounded in ancient times; Edinchip, the hill in the shape of a shoemaker's last; Lochearnhead, where there is a small country village with a good inn, having every requisite accommodation for travellers; Edinample, from the words, *eadan*, face, and *teampuil*, temple, and importing that a place of worship had been on the face of the hill at a very remote period: here stands an ancient castle belonging to the family of Breadalbane; it is surrounded with lofty plane-trees; and there is a grand waterfall close to it, which attracts the attention of travellers: Glenogle, signifying *the terrific glen*, is a narrow pass leading from Lochearnhead to Glendochar in Breadalbane; it is surrounded on both sides of the road by stupendous hills full of rocks and *scarnachs*, the haunts of foxes and ravenous birds.

Boundaries.—The parish is bounded on the south by the parish of Callander; on the east by the parish of Comrie; and on the north and west by the parish of Killin.

Topographical Appearances.—The country on both sides of the river and lakes is environed by a ridge of hills, some of which are of considerable height, and rise almost perpendicular from the strath. A few of them may be mentioned

Binean, signifying *the mountain of birds*, is nearly as high as Benmore, which is immediately adjoining: Stobchon, *the hill of the dogs*: Beinchroin, *the mountain where the deer used to roar*: Craighuigh Hill, *the King's rock*, where, it is said, King Robert Bruce concealed himself after he had lost the battle of Dalrey, and before that of Bannockburn was fought; on the south side of this stupendous hill are numerous rocks, cavities, and *scarnachs*; and to a traveller below, it appears indeed wild and romantic: Sithean a chath, an eminence at the western extremity of the parish: Fioghan situated on the north of the Kirkton Glen, and halfway between Balquhidder and Glendochar. Above the manse is a stupendous rock, much admired by all travellers, and seen at a great distance. It is the resort of hawks, wild pigeons, and martins.

About forty or fifty years ago the face of the hills was generally covered with heather, which has now almost disappeared.

Hydrography.—There are a vast number of springs, chiefly perennial, in the parish. The lakes are, *Loch-voil*, *Loch-doine*, half of *Lochlubnaig*, and a part of *Lochearn*. *Loch-voil* or *phuil* signifies *the muddy lake*: *Loch-doine*, *the deep water*: and *Loch-lubnaig*, *the winding lake*. The only river of note in the place is *Balvag*, signifying *the smooth running water*. It takes its rise at *Loch-*

voil, and runs smoothly in a serpentine direction to the south-east, about five miles through the strath, and discharges itself into Lochlubnaig. Calair, a lesser river than Balvag, flows from Glenbuckie, and rages furiously in time of flood, from which circumstance the name is derived.

Geology.—The rocks in this parish are mica-slate, clay-slate, quartz rock, primitive greenstone, and porphyry. Veins of galena or lead glance traversing the mica-slate occur in several parts, but none of these appear to have been worked for the ore they contain.

Woods.—There are several woods in the parish, consisting chiefly of oak, coppice, birch, ash, alder, and mountain-ash. There are likewise several young plantations of Scotch, larch, and spruce firs, which are thriving well. There are some plane-trees of considerable size, and also oaks. The soil seems to be well adapted for growing all kinds of wood usually planted in the country, such as firs, oak, plane-tree, &c.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Antiquities.—In a field somewhat to the south-east of the manse, there is a stone resembling an obelisk, about five feet high. The people call it Puidrac: but the nature and origin of it, the writer has not ascertained.

About a mile to the eastward of the manse, a desperate battle was fought between the M'Larens and the Leneys, some suppose in the time of the Alexanders. The M'Larens from time immemorial were inhabitants of Balquhiddy, and the Leneys resided near Callander. The natives mention every circumstance relating to this conflict with great exactness.

Eminent Men.—The late Sir John MacGregor Murray, of MacGregor, Bart. was buried in the family vault, about a mile to the eastward of the manse; he was a distinguished Gaelic scholar, and zealous and unwearied in his exertions to collect and preserve the ancient poetry of the Highland bards. He held the rank of colonel in the army, and raised a regiment of infantry, called the Clan Alpins, for the service of his country, which was commanded by his brother, Colonel Alexander MacGregor Murray, who was also buried in the mausoleum belonging to the family.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners are, the Marquis of Breadalbane; Sir Evan J. Murray MacGregor of MacGregor, Bart.; Alexander Buchanan, Esq. of Arnprior; Earl of Moray; and John Lorn Stewart, Esq. of Glenbuckie.

Parochial Registers.—There is a register of baptisms and mar-

riages kept in the parish, the earliest date of which is November 1696 : it is regularly kept.

Mansion-Houses.—There are two mansion-houses, Edinample Castle, and Glenbuckie House, the former built some centuries back, and the latter about ten years ago.

III.—POPULATION.

The greatest number of souls in the parish, so far back as can be traced, was 1592 ; by last census, the population was 1049. The yearly average of births for the last seven years is 24, and that of marriages 9.

There are 9 proprietors of land, whose rentals all exceed L. 50 yearly.

Gaelic is the language generally spoken, but it has been rather losing ground within the last forty years.

Number of families in the parish,	218
chiefly employed in agriculture,	113
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	30

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The number of acres which are occasionally under tillage, has not been ascertained. The arable land and hill pasture are generally let together, excepting some small lots, consisting of a few acres arable land and meadow, which may be rented at the average of L. 1 per acre.

Live-Stock.—The common breeds of sheep and cattle are the black-faced sheep and West Highland cattle, and considerable attention is paid to improve them, by introducing sheep and cattle from other stocks. As a proof of the attention which is paid to the improvement of sheep stock in this parish, it may be stated that they generally bring the highest prices at the Falkirk Tryst.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—There is no market-town in the parish, and the nearest market-town is Callander, distant from the Clachan about twelve miles.

Villages.—There are two small villages in the parish, one in Strathyre, and the other at Lochearnhead, both on the turnpike road that leads from Stirling to Fortwilliam.

Means of Communication.—The length of the turnpike road through the parish is eleven miles. There is a post-office at Lochearnhead. There are two bridges on the river Balvag, and in full repair.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is situate about the centre of the parish, conveniently, at that time, for the population. In the

Braes district, to the west of the church, where there were 50 tenants, with a cottar perhaps under every tenant, there are at present only 3 tenants and 1 cottar; so that now the greater part of the population is in the Lochearnhead, or the north-east district, and in Strathyre the south-east district. The church was built in the year 1631, and has been repaired several times since; it may contain about 600, and the seats are all free. The manse was built in the year 1774, and was repaired about twelve years ago. There are no Dissenters in the parish. Divine service is generally well attended in the summer season.

Education.—There are three schools in the parish. In the parochial school are taught, Latin, writing, arithmetic, reading, English and Gaelic. In Strathyre district, there is a school supported by the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge, in which are taught English, writing, arithmetic, and Gaelic. There is another school, established at Lochearnhead, and supported by the General Assembly's Committee; the branches of education taught in it are Latin, writing, arithmetic, English, and Gaelic. In all these schools, strict attention is paid to the morals of the youth, and to their religious instruction. The parochial schoolmaster's salary is the maximum, and the school fees may amount to L. 10 a year. He has not a garden, but has the fiars price of 2 bolls oat-meal in lieu thereof. There are none in the parish between six and fifteen years of age who are not taught to read, and the people in general are alive to the benefits of education.

October 1837.