

usually taught, such as English reading, English grammar, geography, arithmetic, Latin, &c. on the most approved methods. The schoolmaster has the highest salary allowed by law, and a house and garden of such value as to entitle him to a vote in the county. He is allowed L. 5 annually as clerk of session, and for collecting and distributing the poor's money, and may realize about L. 25 per annum from the school fees.

The people of the parish seem to be feelingly alive to the benefits of education. There is none of them but can read and write, and go through the simple rules of arithmetic. The children are sent to school at a very early period, and the fees are made low for their accommodation.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of poor upon the list is commonly about 8, who receive each at an average 2s. per week, and 10s. per annum for coals, and L. 1 per annum for house rent. There are others, however, who occasionally receive small donations to assist them in exigencies, and to prevent them from becoming regular paupers. As the collection at the church is extremely inconsiderable, as well as the other funds, an assessment is laid upon the parish according to law, to make up the sum that may be required. The amount of church collections for the poor is about L. 5 per annum; from assessment, L. 35. The poor have also the benefit of the interest of L. 150 lodged in the hands of the kirk-session.

November 1837.

PARISH OF ERROL.

PRESBYTERY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.

THE REV. JAMES GRIERSON, MINISTER.

L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE most ancient form in which the name of this parish appears in the records, is *Arroll*, although at a very early period we also find it written *Erroll*. These two different forms of its orthography continued to be used indiscriminately, till the end of the seventeenth century. The name is now written *Errol*, and is probably derived from the Gaelic word *Ear-iul*, which signifies, *Eastern landmark*,—a designation which the place might very na-

turally receive from persons entering this part of Scotland, by sailing up the estuary of the Tay.

Extent and Boundaries.—The parish is an irregular four-sided figure, somewhat approaching that of a *trapezoid*,—its longest side being that which coincides with the bank of the Tay on the south, and its narrowest extremity being that toward the southwest. The length of its southern boundary is rather more than 6 miles, but its average length does not exceed $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Its breadth at the eastern extremity is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, while toward the western extremity it is not more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Its entire extent may be estimated nearly at 15 square miles, so that it contains about 8600 imperial acres. It is bounded on the south by the Tay; on the west by the parish of St Madoes; on the north-west by Kinfauns; on the north by Kilspindie and Kinnaird; and on the east by Inchtute. The parish of Errol thus occupies the most central situation of the Carse of Gowrie, being at the one extremity only 7 miles distant from the city of Perth, and at the other, little more than 9 miles from the town of Dundee; while, in its breadth, it extends from the Tay, to within half a mile of the foot of those hills which form the northern boundary of the Carse.

Topographical Appearances.—The general surface of the parish is low and flat. With the exception of two beautiful eminences, which swell up from the bosom of the surrounding plain, the whole eastern half of the parish is almost an entire level, being scarcely anywhere more than 26 feet above the high-water-mark of the river. The western half, however, though less fertile, is more diversified. The village of Errol, which is situate at little more than half a mile of direct distance from the river, and therefore much nearer to the southern than the northern boundary, is, in regard to the length of the parish, almost exactly in the middle. At the distance of about a quarter of a mile to the east of the village, there commences the largest of those eminences which diversify the western division of the parish. To the west of the village, this ridge assumes considerable breadth, receding also a good deal farther from the river, and continues onward, with occasional irregularities, but on the whole diminishing in elevation to the western extremity, and prolonged through the small parish of St Madoes. Not quite a mile to the north of this principal ridge, and nearly opposite the middle of its course, is another ridge, of rather more than three quarters of a mile in length, and

which, though connected at its eastern extremity with the former, runs afterwards in a parallel direction. About half a mile north of this second ridge, is a third, which is parallel to both, but shorter in its extent, and much inferior in its elevation. The only other eminence in the parish is about a mile to the north of the village of Errol, quite insulated in its position, not much exceeding a mile in circumference, and, like the last of the three parallel ridges, probably not more than 30 or 35 feet above the general level of the district. As to the height of the principal ridge already described, the centre of the public street at the cross of the village, is, by recent measurement, 116 feet above the low water mark of the river, and the platform of the sun-dial to the south of the mansion-house of Errol Park is 132 feet above the same level. About a mile farther west than this point, and on the estate of Murie, the ridge is apparently some feet higher; but even there it cannot exceed 140 or 145 feet.

The river Tay forms the southern boundary of the parish through the whole of its extent. The bank is very flat, seldom more than 20 feet, even above the high-water mark.

Meteorology.—The general temperature of the atmosphere in this district is milder than usual in the same latitude. This is what might naturally be anticipated, from the slight elevation of the surface above the level of the sea; from its being sheltered on the north by a range of hills, none of which rise so high as to be within the region of much cold; and from the absence, generally, of those violent currents of wind which are often felt in deep contracted valleys.

The mean height of the thermometer, as ascertained by daily observations, taken at a quarter past nine o'clock A. M., and continued for seven years, is 48.497, and the mean height for the same period, by observations taken at half-past eight o'clock P. M., is 46.889. The mean daily temperature for the year, taken from the average of seven years, is 48.198. The mean temperature for the separate months of the year, taking the same average, will be seen from the following tabular view.

Mean temperature of each month, on an average of seven years, from observations taken at a quarter past nine o'clock A. M.

<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>March.</i>	<i>April.</i>	<i>May.</i>	<i>June.</i>
36.777	39.633	42.086	47.109	53.674	60.385
<i>July.</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sep.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>
62.070	60.166	54.885	49.649	41.142	40.714

The mean of these observations, at a quarter past nine A. M. is

PERTH.

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between one and two degrees higher than the mean daily temperature for the respective months.

The average of the greatest heights which the thermometer has reached for seven years, is 76° ; and that of the lowest to which it has sunk is 19° .

As to the pressure of the atmosphere, it may be stated, that the average height of the barometer, at a quarter past nine o'clock A. M. for seven years, is 29.648, and at half-past eight o'clock P. M., 29.657. With one exception, the average of any one month, during these years, has not varied from this more than a few decimals; but there have been some rare instances in which the instrument has been as high as 30.40, 30.50, and even 30.56, and others in which it has been as low as 28.44, 28.38, and even 28.10.

As to the prevailing winds of this district, it is enough to mention, that, on an average of seven years, there are found to have been 172 days on which the wind has been from the south and south-west; 138 on which it has been from the east and south-east; 89 on which it has been from the west and north-west; and 23 on which it has been from the east and north-east. The most frequent rains, however, are from the east, owing, no doubt, to the proximity of the German Ocean in that direction, the accumulation of vapour from which is one of the surest prognostics of rain.

The climate is mild, and, on the whole, rather dry than moist. On an average of twelve years, the number of fair days in the year is found to be 211, and the number of days on which there has been rain or snow is 154. The average quantity of rain which falls within the year, is 26 inches. In ordinary years, harvest commences by the middle of August, and is quite general in the third week of that month. The climate on the whole is salubrious.

It is proper to add, that less snow falls on the Carse than on the surrounding districts, and that what does fall on it sooner disappears.

Hydrography.—The Tay is the only river or frith which is connected with this parish—forming, as has been already stated, its southern boundary. Along the whole of this line, the Tay may be considered as a frith rather than a river, since it has at this part of its course acquired an average breadth of little less than two miles. The ordinary increase of depth, at the time of stream tides, is about 13 or 14 feet, but, under particular circumstances, it sometimes amounts to fully 17 feet.

Although the parish is not intersected by any river, there are three or four large drains, which, under the name of *pows*, serve to convey through the district the streams which are formed in the neighbouring hills on the north, together with all the surface water which is collected by the smaller drains and ditches by which the different properties and farms are subdivided. These *pows* take their origin in the north and north-west parts of the parish, and pursue a winding, irregular course, the general direction of which is toward the south and south-east, till they empty themselves into the flat shores of the estuary,—their mouths forming the small harbours by which the commerce of the district is carried on. The course of these streams appears to have been determined chiefly by natural causes, corresponding generally with that which the water, seeking its own outlet, would have followed. In their shape and dimensions, however, they are artificial. They are on an average between 10 and 15 feet wide at the top, and between 6 and 8 feet at the bottom. The depth may vary between 6 and 10 feet. Except after heavy rains or sudden thaws, they seldom contain more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 feet deep of water; but, even in the height of summer, they are never in all places entirely dry.

Springs.—The only springs that exist seem to have been formed by digging wells for this purpose. Most of them are perennial, but not a few are intermittent. The temperature of one of the most steady and copious of them, is 40° in winter, and 48° in summer. The water of the perennial ones is generally hard, and of a clear colour. Some of the wells have been sunk to the depth of 30, 40, and even 60 feet, without falling in with any solid rock. The one which has been sunk to the depth of 60 feet afforded no water till that depth was reached; when, apparently on the principle of Artesian wells, the fluid began to ascend, and continued ascending till it became stationary, as it still is at little more than ten feet from the surface.

Topographical Appearances.—The general aspect of the parish is rich and beautiful, the flatter portions of the soil making up in richness and fertility for what they want of the picturesque. There is scarcely a rood of waste land to be seen in any part of the parish, although in some places the soil is thin and sandy, or inclined to till. With the exception of the limited portion which is under wood, and of the grounds which are laid out in pasture around the mansions of the principal proprietors, the whole is under cultivation. The east

half of the parish consists almost entirely of the richest *carse* land ; and the chief beauty which it presents to the eye is the wide extent of those fields in which all varieties of crops are reared in the greatest luxuriance. The fields are not inclosed or divided by hedges, though, in some instances, intersected by rows of trees, and diversified, at intervals, by extensive and flourishing orchards.

The aspect of the country to the west of the village of Errol, with the exception of the broad fields of rich alluvial soil that stretch along the banks of the Tay, differs widely from that of the fields which lie to the east. Though inferior in fertility, the former is both the most elevated and the most diversified part of the parish. It not only presents a greater variety of scenery in itself, but commands a most beautiful prospect toward the upper extremity of the *carse* and the surrounding landscape. This prospect stretches, on the one hand, to the Lomond-hills in Fifeshire, and the opening of the delightful valley of Strathearn ; and, on the other, to the bold and romantic scenery of those rocky promontories, and wooded steeps which form the north-western barrier of this part of the valley of the Tay ; while, more directly in front, are seen the high grounds which rise in pastoral beauty from the very deepest part of that valley. Beyond these, is seen the loftier summit of the hill of Moncrieff, which divides the Earn and the Tay immediately above their juncture, and which, from the wide panorama which it commands over what is the richest, and also what is the wildest and the sublimest region of our native land, may be allowed to possess some claims to the proud title which its admirers have bestowed on it, in calling it *the glory of Scotland*. Such are the objects which present themselves in the more immediate neighbourhood of the position to which we have referred, on the open high ground about a mile to the west of Errol ; and beyond these, the prospect terminates in the sky, except when, in favourable states of the atmosphere, the spectator obtains a glimpse of the blue mountain tops of the western highlands of Perthshire.

Turning towards the village of Errol itself, the beauty of its situation cannot fail to arrest the attention. However irregular in its structure, yet, situate on the crown and sloping sides of an eminence which is surmounted by the lofty and umbrageous oaks, that adorn the contiguous grounds and avenues of Errol Park, and commanding a view of the richest and the most spacious of Scottish plains, which is bordered on the one side by a long range of beautiful hills, called the *Braes of the Carse*, over which is seen

the round summit of the celebrated Dunsinnan, and on the other, by the most copious and majestic of Scottish rivers,—this village, while itself a conspicuous object, is the centre of a rural amphitheatre, which cannot easily be surpassed, either in the largeness of its dimensions, or the gracefulness of its ornaments. The hills now mentioned, besides being finely diversified in their outline, are cultivated almost to their summits; and whether their inequalities are thrown into light and shade by the slanting rays of the evening sun, while they are clothed in the fresh verdure of spring, or whether, under the effulgence of the mid-day beams, they reflect the golden tints of approaching autumn, they exhibit a scene of peculiar splendour and beauty;—the intermediate valley, with its many thousands of acres of luxuriant vegetation, skirted and studded with the country seats of its proprietors; the still broader expanse of the Tay, which washes its southern border, and forms the magnificent channel by which its varied and exuberant productions are exported in those vessels which are daily to be seen dividing its sparkling waves; the distant sea-port of Dundee, distinguished alike for its manufactures and its commerce; and, more distant still, the ancient and isolated bulwark which guards the contracted outlet by which this majestic river empties itself at last into the German Ocean.

Geology and Mineralogy.—There are only two localities within the parish, where access has been obtained to the solid strata of rocks. The one is at Murie, about a mile to the west of the village of Errol, and the other at Clashbennie, about two miles and three quarters west from that village. The general direction of the strata is in both places nearly the same,—the prevailing dip being to the south-east, the uppermost strata at an angle of 15° or 16° , and the undermost at an angle varying from 20° to 25° . The uppermost strata are those of a coarse limestone quarry at Murie, which has long been disused, and which, owing to the small percentage of lime which the rock contains, seems not to have been used at any time, except as affording a tough and durable stone for building. The solid strata at this place have not been penetrated to a greater depth than about 15 feet; but, from comparing them with the outgoings of the sandstone strata on which they evidently rest, it appears that their whole depth cannot be less than 30 feet. The sandstone here mentioned is of a yellowish white colour, pretty fine in the grain but not very hard. It does not appear to have ever been regularly quarried, and there is a

present no means of ascertaining exactly the depth or extent of the bed, though, judging by circumstances, both must be considerable.

Dipping underneath this sandstone, but with what interposed strata has not yet been ascertained, lies at the distance of fully a mile and a half to the south-west, the sandstone which is found in Clashbennie quarry, on the property of John Lee Allen, Esq. of Errol. This quarry was opened more than twenty years ago, and the excavation is now pretty extensive. The strata have in some places been quarried to the depth of 25 or 30 feet. The colour of the rock in the upper strata was of a dark red, while the texture was coarse without being particularly hard. The lower strata, however, have been of a bluish-red, or somewhat pinky colour, and of a very hard compact structure, from the great additional quantity of silicious matter which the rock contains. Between the strata, is commonly found interposed a thin layer of red clay. Their angle of inclination, as already mentioned, varies from 20° to 25° . No dike or fissure has yet been found crossing the strata, but on the south side of the quarry, as deep down as the working has yet been carried in that direction, several pieces of trap have been found, in contact with which the sandstone is considerably altered and indurated. As there has been a fall of the superincumbent earth near that spot, the exact situation of the strata cannot at present be ascertained, but appearances would lead to the conclusion, that they are a good deal deranged from beneath, and penetrated by a vein of trap. All these characters seem to justify the opinion which has generally been entertained as to this quarry, that the strata belong to the old red sandstone formation. In various places of this quarry, and occasionally, from the time when it was first opened, there have been found many fossil organic remains and impressions. These, in general, have been of small sea-shells, and seldom very entire. In many instances, the impressions seemed to be those of scales of a striated appearance, and shining with a glossy white enamel. One or two impressions of small fish had also been met with, but no specimens of any great or general interest, till the summer of last year (1836,) when the workmen fell in with a portion of a stratum, about 20 feet down in the solid rock, which contained a distinct and nearly entire impression of a fish, $27\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, and 13 inches in breadth. That impression, or rather *model* of the fish, was contained on the under side of the stratum, and, when lifted, left its print, as it were on

the indurated layer or coating of clay which adhered to the stratum beneath. This under specimen was unfortunately broken up, instead of being preserved, as a sort of counterpart to the other. The specimen containing the fish itself was soon heard of, and purchased by the Rev. Mr Noble, of St Madoes, to whose residence the quarry of Clashbennie is almost contiguous. A full size drawing of it was soon obtained and sent to the Secretary of the British Association, at Bristol, which assembled in the end of August 1836, and was exhibited at one of the meetings, where it excited much interest. The specimen itself was afterwards conveyed to London for the inspection of the English geologists, by whom it is understood that a more exact drawing and description have been transmitted to the distinguished Professor Agassiz of Neuchatel, with a view to his determining the genus and species of this fossil fish. The opinion of that celebrated naturalist is not yet made known, and till such opinion be furnished, it would ill become an ordinary observer to say much on the subject.

We shall attempt, however, to convey to the reader some idea of the general appearance of this singular creature, although it is difficult to do so by the help of words alone. It will be observed, from the dimensions already stated, that its breadth is nearly equal to half its length, its head being small in proportion to the body. In these respects, the figure bears some resemblance to that of a tortoise,—a resemblance which is rendered the more striking by something like the rudiments of pectoral fins, and two striated fins, one on each side of the tail, pointing outwards and downwards. Besides these peculiarities, the body of the fish is irregularly covered with broad circular scales fully an inch, and some of them nearly an inch and a half in diameter, the surface of which is somewhat ribbed or grooved, and the substance of which seems to consist of a white enamel, such as is often found in smaller specimens. As far as can be recollected of these scales, they do not precisely correspond with the description of any one of the four orders into which M. Agassiz divides the class of fishes.

Singular as it may appear, when we think of the scaly covering now described, the general impression, after attentively examining this fossil animal is, that it is the abdominal or under part of the fish which is presented to the eye of the spectator. The medial line, it is true, can be traced for nearly the whole length of the body, and the slight depression which runs along that line, with the parallel rounding or elevation on each side of it, would half incline

one, at first, to think that it is the dorsal surface which is exhibited to view; but when the head is examined, with the arch of the under jaw seen distinctly within the parallel margin of the upper, no doubt can remain in regard to the aspect presented. From the whole of the statement now given, it need scarcely be added, that the position in which the fish was imbedded in the solid rock was that in which it was wont to move in its native liquid element.

After the purposes of science have been served by the thorough examination of this fossil relic, we are happy to think that it may be deposited for inspection in a public museum not far from the locality from which it was taken, a higher interest being thus imparted by each to the other.

Some months after the discovery of the specimen now described, a considerable number of small specimens were found, with scaly markings similar to the former. Nothing, however, like the impression of an entire animal was met with, except that of a small fish, whose general outline bore some resemblance to the order *Pleuronectes*, of which the flounder is a familiar species. Among other specimens, was one containing what seems to be the petrification of the eye of a small fish within its cartilaginous orbit. Besides all these, there were found about the same time, but not quite so deeply situated in the quarry, a large assemblage of specimens, each of which has some resemblance to the tapering extremity of an ordinary sized haddock, after the tail fin has been cut off. Some of them, however, are a great deal narrower, and others a great deal broader, but always tapering towards a point, though the broad ones are sometimes curved laterally, so as to present a figure somewhat resembling the falcated extremity of a heavy hedging-bill. The substance of them is the dark-red sandstone of the quarry, but they have a sort of *glazing* of red clayey matter, on which are left the impressions of diamond-shaped or triangular scales or plates, which have partly overlapped each other, and which present a surface somewhat like that of a fossil palm. These singular remains were all found intermingled in the same spot, as near each other as though they had belonged to one individual animal, but each so like the caudal extremity of a fish, as rather to intimate that they had belonged to different individuals. Whether they belonged to one or more, no trace has yet been found of any other part of the animal structure with which they were connected.

No ores worth mentioning have yet been found in any of the rocks already described. There are, however, traces of oxide of

iron in the white sandstone, but no nodules of ironstone in any of the few specimens which the writer has had an opportunity of examining. It may here be proper to remark, that this white sandstone bears a strong affinity to the *white blotches* in the more superficial, or new red sandstone, found at the distance of fully five miles in the adjoining parish of Inchtute. These blotches are generally circular, but sometimes oval, and sometimes oblong; and they appear alike frequently, whether by a vertical or a horizontal section of the strata. The circular ones are always found to result from little spherical masses, of which they are the section; and it is probably from a section of these, compressed while in a soft state, that the other figures of the blotches have been produced. These white sandstone balls are much more compact and hard than the red sandstone around them; and, in the very centre of them, there is commonly found a small nucleus of iron ore, seldom larger than a pea.

Almost the only simple minerals which have been met with in the rocks mentioned in this account are calc-spar, quartz, and calcedony.

The alluvial deposit which immediately covers the solid rocks in the particular localities already referred to, is a mixture of gravel and red clay. With regard, however, to the alluvial deposits of the parish in general, it may be stated, first, with respect to the more elevated parts, that, so far as can be ascertained by the sinking of wells, some of them 30, 40, and one of them even 60 feet in depth, the only substance met with, after passing through the till or gravel, which is immediately under the soil, is an indurated clay or *rock-marl*, as the inhabitants have called it, which becomes very friable after continued exposure to the air. After getting a few feet below the surface, this was the only material which was found in digging even the deepest of these wells, with the exception of three pretty large boulder-stones, which were met with at different depths. In the immediate neighbourhood of the limestone quarry at Murie, there was, upwards of sixty years ago, a marl pit, which, however, was never wrought to any great extent, and which has long since been covered with a young plantation.

But, secondly, as to the deposits in the other or *carse* districts of the parish, at least in the lower or eastern division, it may be stated that, soon after passing through the soil, we come to a pale blue clay, which continues for 20 or 30 feet, then to a bed of peat, varying from 3 to 18 inches in thickness; and then to quicksand,

or sometimes to rolled gravel. The writer is not aware that any animal remains have been found in these deposits, with the exception of those sea shells which are met with in great abundance, not in the clay, but in the *silt*, or thin earthy deposit, which is 15 or 16 feet below the present surface, and not more than 5 or 6 feet above the ordinary high-water mark. These shells have not been found higher up the Tay than opposite the village of Errol; but in the lower parts of the parish they are found, not only in the banks of the river, but considerably inland, toward the very centre, indeed, of the Carse. Several different species have been discovered, all having their counterparts in the living representatives which now inhabit the contiguous shores. Their existence in such a situation does not prove, perhaps, that the bed of the river was at one time as high as they now are,—for they may have been carried into their present locality by some extraordinary inundation,—but it does prove that since they were there deposited, the surface of the district has been greatly elevated by alluvial deposition. Connected with the peat, various trees, chiefly of oak, have been found imbedded and in good preservation. The writer has conversed with a man who told him that he recollects distinctly of hearing his father state that, at a period about forty years ago, the latter was engaged in digging in a piece of very low ground on the estate of Megginch, not many feet beneath the surface, when he and his fellow labourer found a small anchor, the figure of which was tolerably preserved, but which mouldered down or went to pieces when lifted.

Such a circumstance as that now mentioned has sometimes been adduced in support of the opinion, that the bed of the Tay was at one period on the north, as it is now on the south side of the Carse. Any one, however, who carefully examines the whole of the particular localities, will perceive that to such an opinion there are insuperable objections. But there is proof in abundance, if not that the whole district must, at one time, have been an immense lake or extended estuary, at least, that the greater part of it must have been under water. The principal elevations in the Carse have been distinguished for time immemorial, by names which imply that they had at first been islands. During this state of things, boats must, of course, have been required for the convenience of the inhabitants, a circumstance which might account for such a discovery as that to which we have now adverted. The gradual manner, too, in which these *circular* islands were enlarged, by the gra-

dual subsidence and draining of the water, may partly account for the *curvilinear* form of the ridges, which has been so universally and inviolably maintained in the agriculture of the Carse lands, and which no one has hitherto attempted to alter, by casting the finest and richest of the long cultivated soil which was accumulated on the *crown* of the ridges, into an opposite position, without ultimately incurring the serious evil of a greatly diminished rate of production.

The various soils appear to have been transported. On the elevated parts of the parish, the prevailing soil is a black earth, in some places of great depth, but in others very shallow. The sub-soil in these elevated situations is generally till or clay, but sometimes it is gravelly or sandy; the soil, in the one case, being naturally wet, and in the other dry. In the low lands, the soil is clayey, containing, in some situations, a considerable intermixture of sand, and being in all greatly modified and improved by long-continued cultivation, and the constant addition of decayed vegetable and animal productions.

The only plants which need be noticed as particularly attached to the soil, are the *Arundo phragmites*, now *Phragmites communis*, or common reed; *Scirpus lacustris*, or tall bullrush; and the *Scirpus triqueter*, or triangular club-rush. The first of these is to be found in all the moist localities of the Low Carse, and it was many years ago regularly planted on the low shores of the Tay, to check the encroachments which the tides were then constantly making on the banks.

Zoology.—This parish contains no particular quadrupeds, but is rich in birds. The following are the rarest species: starling, rose-coloured ouzel, snow bunting, lesser redpole, goldfinch, hoopoe, kingfisher, turtle dove, quail, and wild swan. The more ample list furnished by H. M. Drummond, Esq. we regret our limited space prevents us inserting. We may here notice, that after the long intense heat of the summer 1826, the wheat crops were, for four successive years, but especially for the years 1828, 1829, and 1830, very grievously injured by the depredations of the wheat-fly, myriads of which deposited their eggs in the soft pulpy ears of the grain just before it came into flower, and which were no sooner hatched into maggots than they began to devour it. During those three years, it has been computed that, at an average, not less than a third or fourth of the wheat crop was rendered useless, and that, in the whole district of the

Carse of Gowrie, including the *Braes*, a pecuniary loss was thus sustained of not less than L. 96,000.

Botany.—There are few rare plants found in this parish. The only ones worth mentioning have been communicated to the writer by Mr Gorrie, Annat Garden. They are the following: *Pyrola rotundifolia*, or round-leaved winter-green; *Dianthus Armeria*, or Deptford pink; *Ranunculus hirsutus*, or pale hairy Crowfoot; and *Bidens tripartita*, or trifold bur-marigold.

There are no forests in the parish, and few plantations. Of the latter, the chief are those which were planted upwards of fifty years ago for the farther protection of the banks of the river against the action of the tide,—those which have been employed for shelter and ornament around the pleasure-grounds of the principal proprietors,—and those which have been found to be the fittest occupants of some of the poorer parts of the soil. In the first of these situations, nothing but hard-wood has been employed; in the second, there is a large proportion of larch, which, however, does appear to agree with the dampness of the soil; and in the third, it has been found expedient to admit a majority of Scotch firs. The species of tree to which the strong soils of the Carse are best adapted, is decidedly the oak. Of this, some very noble specimens are to be seen, both in Errol Park and in some of the other properties. There is one, a little to the east of the park-wall at Megginch, which measures 13 feet in circumference, at the height of about 3 feet from the ground. At Murie, there is a very aged Lammas pear-tree, which has a circumference of 12 feet, at the height of 4½ feet from the surface. Above that, it had divided itself into three main branches or arms, one of which has been torn off, at a distant date, by the violence of some tempest. The tallest pear-trees, however, in the parish are to be found at Seaside, and on the contiguous property of Bogmill. In the orchard at the latter place, there is one which cannot be less than 50 feet high, and another which, though not so lofty, is the oldest fruit tree in the Carse, its age being thought to be not less than 300 years. At the former place, there is another pear-tree, which presents a very singular appearance. It also is of great antiquity. The height of the trunk, before it divides into two principal branches, is fully 15 feet. At 5½ feet from the ground, the diameter of the trunk is not less than 3 feet 6 inches, and at twice that height it is still nearly 3 feet in diameter. But the interior of the trunk is so completely decayed, that a person of

ordinary stature may walk through it, almost without stooping. The two main branches seem prolonged down to the ground, touching each other, and adhering only above the middle of the stem, and thus forming a kind of St Andrew's cross, consisting, at the lower extremities, of little less than the rigid bark. This venerable representative of past ages still continues to bear fruit. To these notices, it may be added, that there are at Megginch Castle a few holly trees, one of which is at the base $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet in circumference, while another has shot up as straight as the mast of a ship, to the height of fully 50 feet. There is, at the same place, a very large walnut tree, and an aged thorn, the trunk of which is 6 feet in circumference.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The earliest accounts of the parish of Errol are derived from popular tradition.

Family of Hay.—Referring to the tradition respecting the family of Hay, noticed in the Account of Redgorton in this work, (p. 175,) we have to observe, that whatever value be attached to this tradition, the oldest charter belonging to the estate of Errol, and constituting it a barony, was granted in the time of William the Lion, who reigned from 1166 to 1214. It farther appears, that in 1255, Gilbert de Hay of Errol disposed to his brother William, the property of Leys,—a property lying within the parish, and previously forming the eastern portion of his own. This property of Leys is the only one in the parish which continues to the present day in the possession of the lineal descendant of the original proprietor. It is reported that the second and third sons of the grandson of the said William Hay of Leys became the first proprietors of two of the oldest estates in the neighbourhood. The eldest branch of the Hay family was created Earl of Errol in 1452, in the time of James II. The estate and the earldom continued united till the days of Charles I., when the noble possessor, after having lived in great splendour, was obliged to sell the estate in 1634. This eldest branch of the family ended in a female, who, in 1720, was married to the Earl of Kilmarnock.

The writer is not aware of any written accounts of the parish, either ancient or modern, except the brief description which is to be found in the former Statistical Account of Scotland. He has had an opportunity, however, of consulting the fifth and sixth volumes of an ancient geographical work in folio, written in Latin, and published at Amsterdam in 1662, in the latter of which a

pretty full account is given of the geography of Scotland, and, among other districts, of the Carse of Gowrie. These volumes are enriched by a series of provincial maps, which are very minute and very curious, and show with what tenacity even the most obscure hamlets retain the same names from generation to generation. It unfortunately happens, that the map for this district has been abstracted, but several of the localities in the outskirts can be traced in the maps of the adjoining districts. The volumes in question are in the possession of Vice-Admiral Drummond of Megginch.*

The lowest parts of the parish, and that which, as being often flooded and the last in being drained, was called the *Myres*, were, in 1742, by order of the Court of Session, divided among the principal proprietors. They amounted in all to some hundreds of acres.

Remarkable Occurrences.—The most memorable and important occurrence within the memory of man, was the formation, about forty-six years ago, of the great turnpike road through the carse, between Perth and Dundee, with the branches connecting it with the principal harbours on this side of the Tay, such as the Pow of Errol, now Port-Allen, and Polgavie.

Another occurrence worthy of notice is connected with the state of the river, during the intense frost which prevailed in the month of January 1814. So completely was the Tay, at that time, blocked up, with an accumulation of ice, that, although the distance between Port-Allen and Newburgh is fully two miles, the passage was made by several persons on foot, and so near the time when the storm broke up, that some who crossed the river in this manner returned, next tide, or at least next day, by the passage-boat!

Eminent men.—Of distinguished individuals connected with this parish, we may mention the Right Honourable the Earl of Northesk, who resided in it as proprietor of the estate of Errol, at least from the year 1697 till 1714. We may also mention the Rev. John Strang, D. D., who was minister from 1614 to 1626, when he was translated to be Principal of the University of Glasgow; and in particular the Rev. Lauchlan Macintosh, of Dalmunzie, who was minister of this parish from 1724 till 1744. After the

* The title of the volume on Scotland is, "Geographiæ Blavianæ, Volumen vi. quo libri 12; 13, Europæ continentur. Amstelædami, 1662." It contains the ancient tradition about the battle of Luncarty.

death of the Rev. Samuel Nairne, in the month of December 1720, the heritors and kirk-session, although the act of Queen Anne, restoring patronage, had been in operation since 1712, proceeded, agreeably to the usage under the previous act of William and Mary, 1690, to make choice of and *call* a minister to the vacant charge,—the patron not interfering in the matter. Several individuals were proposed, and some of them called, but various difficulties arose in the church courts, to their settlement. At last, in April 1722, an unanimous call was addressed to Mr Macintosh, then minister at Dunning. The presbytery of Auchterarder refused to loose him from his existing charge. A new series of attempts were then made by the heritors, elders, and people of Errol, to obtain a minister, but still without success, latterly because no individual could be found who commanded a decided majority in his favour. In these circumstances, a second unanimous call was addressed to Mr Macintosh in November 1724; and the consent of his presbytery having then been obtained, he was, to the great delight of the parish, admitted to his new charge by the presbytery of Perth, *jure devoluto*, February 17, 1725.

This eminent man was one of the three ministers who were sent by the Commission of the General Assembly, 1734, “to address the King and Parliament, for obtaining relief from the grievance of patronage.” In 1736, he was chosen moderator of the General Assembly; and, in 1743, he was urged by many ministers again to become a candidate for that distinguished office; but declined it. The same year, while attending to his duties in that venerable court, he was seized with an epidemic, then raging in Edinburgh, from the effects of which he never recovered. He died on the 13th of May 1744.

The only other person to be mentioned in this place is John Barclay, A. M., a native of the parish of Muthill, but who, in 1760, became assistant to the Rev. James Jobson, minister of Errol, and in this capacity resided in it for some time. This individual afterwards became famous as the founder of the sect of the Bereans.

Land-owners.—The chief of the present land-owners of the parish are:—John Lee Allen, Esq. of Errol; Lieutenant-Colonel Allen, of Inchmartin; the Right Honourable Lord Kinnaird; Miss Spence Yeaman, of Murie; David Balfour Hay, Esq. of Leys; Vice-Admiral Drummond, of Megginch; Laurence Craigie, Esq. of Glendoick; Charles Hunter, Esq. of Glencarse and Seaside; James Matthew, Esq. of Waterybutts; Society of Ship-

masters of Dundee; Henry Black Stewart, Esq. of Balnakeilly; and John Gardiner, Esq. of Carse-Grange.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers commence in the times of the Reformation. Including the session records, and the accounts connected with the management of the poor, (all of which are generally imbodyed in different parts of the same volume), they extend to thirteen volumes, coming down to the year 1837 inclusive. The first entry in the register of baptisms is dated December 27, 1553. Till within the last three years, there is no separate register of deaths or burials, except from 1783 to 1789. In the session records, there is a blank between the years 1654 and 1666; and from the year 1788 to 1819, there are only a few detached minutes, but no regular record.

The early records of the kirk-session contain many curious entries. We hope to be indulged in extracting a few lines from them, at a period of great interest to the church and the nation—that of the glorious Revolution.

“*Sabbath—Sept. 8th 1689.*—No sermon because the troopers came into ye toun with sound of trumpet and dissipat the people; and the Minr. was informed yt they would offer violence to him.”

The minister here referred to was Dr John Nicolson, who was soon after *deprived*, because, as appears from the minute of heritors and elders, when proceeding (January 1691) to nominate and call a successor, he would not submit to the new Government, nor conform to the ecclesiastical constitution which had then been established. An honourable testimony, however, was borne to his faithfulness in the discharge of his ministerial duties. It is dated November 1, 1689, and is expressed in the following quaint but affecting terms:—

“The session this day with ane voice declared, yt the doctor had been very painful and faithful in ye exercise of all the points and parts of ye ministerial function among yem.”*

Antiquities—There are few antiquities in the parish. Similar to the large stone, at the village of Hawkstane, just within the boundary of the parish of St Madoes, are two others in this parish, both in

* To this account of the parochial records may be appended a list of all who have been ministers of the parish since the Reformation. This list, the accuracy of which has been fully verified, was made out in the year 1822 by Mr Scott, preacher, who was at that time contemplating a general index of this kind for every parish in Scotland. The dates refer to the year of admission: 15—, Alexander Dunmuir. 1591, James Smyth. 1614, John Strang, D. D. 1626, Alexander Orney. 1640, Thomas Halyburton. 1652, William Bell. 1686, John Nicolson, D. D. 1692, Samuel Nairne. 1725, Lauchlan Macintosh. 1744, James Wemyss. 1759, James Jobson. 1795, David Dow. 1819, James Grierson.

elevated and conspicuous situations; the one in the west, near Clashbennie, and the other in the north-east, near Inchmartin. They are both quite solitary, and without any mark of art; so large as not to have been easily conveyed to their present situation by human contrivance; and yet in such a position as to lead to the inference, that they were intended to be monumental—intended to mark a place of importance, or to perpetuate the remembrance of some memorable event.

In the public burying-ground, there is one small monument sculptured over with emblematical representations, many of them taken from scripture, but so decayed and effaced, that neither name nor date can be found. It contains in a scroll the creed in Latin, and, in the same language, a translation of Rev. ii. 10. In the wall around the burying-ground, is seen the rude figure of a warrior in chain-armor, hewn in white sandstone. The arms are bent up on the breast, the palms of the hands having originally been made to meet, in the attitude of adoration. The figure has evidently been meant to be in a supine position, but when built into the modern wall, chiefly, it would seem, for the purpose of preservation, it has been stuck into it in a vertical position; and as, for the sake of stability, it has been sunk in the ground, nearly up to the knees, the appearance which it thus exhibits is exceedingly grotesque. Two of the ministers of the parish, Mr Omev and Mr Bell, have been buried, each under a stone sarcophagus. Of these humble monuments, the first is adorned with various sepulchral emblems, and both of them are covered with inscriptions. Mr Bell had formerly been minister of the parish of Dron, in which parish he left, under the charge of the Presbytery of Perth, a few acres of land, the rental of which is devoted to the maintenance of a student of divinity in St Mary's College at St Andrews. He died in 1685, and on the south side of the cover of the sarcophagus, under a scroll containing these words,—*Mors patet, hora latet*,—there is a brief historical record of his ministry.*

About three miles and a half from the village of Errol, there are

* On the north side, we have an inscription which affords a curious specimen of that grave quaintness of expression which is so characteristic of the taste of the age:—

“ Death crackt this Bell, yet doth his pleasant chiming
Remain with those who are their lamps a-trimming:
In spite of death, his word some (?) praise still sounds
In Christ's church, and in Heaven his joy abounds.”

The top of the cover contains other two lines of the same description:—

“ Here ceast and silent lies sweet sounding Bell,
Who unto sleeping souls rung many a knell.”

PERTH.

B b

at Westown, the ruins of a small Gothic church, of plain but very excellent workmanship, which, in one of the ancient charters of the estate, is called the church of the Blessed Virgin of Inchmartin. The ministers of Errol used to preach in it, half the day, once in every fortnight; but after the parish church was enlarged and the roads were improved, this practice was discontinued. It is not above fifty years, however, since the building was dismantled, nor nearly so long since interments have taken place in the burying-ground around it. Its situation is one of the most beautiful and picturesque that is to be seen in the whole district. The oldest entire building now in the parish is Megginch Castle. It bears the following inscription:—“*Petrus Hay, ædificium extruxit, A. D. 1575.*”

Within the park at Murie there is an artificial mound, of a circular form, 40 yards in diameter at the base, and about 30 feet diameter at the top; the height from the base being about 20 feet. The platform at the top is surrounded by a low turf wall, with a walk outside of it, and the whole is enclosed with a turf wall at the base, in the form of an equilateral triangle. This mound is called the *Law-knoll*. Its sides are planted with trees, and it stands at the head of an old avenue of lofty oaks, which leads in a straight line towards a place, at the distance of two miles, which is now called *Gallowflat*, but which tradition reports to have been the *Gallow-knoll*,—under the idea that the one knoll was the place where the law was administered, and the other where it was executed on criminals. The Law-knoll is, in respect of height, within a few feet of the highest position in the parish.

Modern Buildings.—The only modern building worth mentioning is the parish church, which was erected in 1831. The former one had stood only sixty-five years, and had all the appearance of being as substantial as it was capacious. When greatly crowded, however, in the evening of the communion Sabbath, June 1830, a panic arose as to the safety of the gallery, which had nearly been attended with fatal consequences. This led to an inspection of the building, from which it appeared that, though there was no weakness in the gallery itself but what might have been easily remedied, the roof and the walls could no longer be depended on. The new church is a very chaste and perfect specimen of the plain Saxon architecture, after a plan furnished by James Gillespie Graham, Esq. It is in the form of a cross, intersecting a square, and has a handsome square tower with pinnacles at the angles, which rise to the

height of 93 feet above the base of the building. The interior arrangements are peculiarly convenient and beautiful. It is seated for 1448 persons. The whole expense of the building was considerably upwards of L. 5000.

III.—POPULATION.

The only way by which an estimate can be formed of the ancient state of the population of the parish is that of consulting the baptismal register. It appears that, even so far back as 1578, the number of baptisms which were registered was 59: that in 1632 the number was 72; and that in 1728, nearly a century later, it was no higher. Judging from a comparison of the baptismal registers, the population of the whole parish even in 1632, must have been upwards of 2000; and it is known that, in point of fact, it was in 1743 not less than 2229. The population of the landward portion does not, at the present day, amount to more than about 1720, and, as the population of the village is supposed to have been nearly doubled within the last hundred years, that of the former can scarcely, if at all, have increased. The increase in the village has been owing chiefly to the improvement of manufactures. Where any diminution has taken place in the landward part of the parish, it seems to have been occasioned by the uniting of two or more small farms into one.

The number of the population residing in the village of Errol, is	-	1220
In three small villages in the outskirts of the parish,	-	278
In the rest of the country part of the parish,	-	1449
Total,	-	2942

The total population at the time of taking the census in 1831 was 2992, but fully fifty persons included in that return were strangers who were employed as workmen at the building of the new church. The sum now given was that obtained by a survey taken in 1836, and corrected to the present date.

The average of births for the last seven years is	-	105
deaths,	-	96
marriages,	-	27
The average number of persons under 15 years of age, is	1119	
betwixt 15 and 30,	863	
30 and 50,	540	
50 and 70,	333	
upwards of 70,	87	
	2942	
Number of families in the parish,		680
chiefly employed in agriculture,		224
in trade, manufactures or handicraft,		374

There is only one individual belonging to the nobility who resides in the parish. The number of families of independent fortune who reside in it is 9 or 10.

The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, is	14
The number of unmarried men, upwards of 50 years of age, is	
of bachelors,	99
of widowers,	22
women upwards of 45 years of age,	34
The number of insane persons is 3; of fatuous persons, 6; of blind persons, 3; and of deaf and dumb persons, 4.	

The number of illegitimate births in the parish during the last three years has been 9.

Where so large a proportion of the inhabitants is employed in and dependent on manufactures, by the frequent and often violent fluctuations of which they are necessarily affected, a great deal of distress is occasionally experienced. Still, however, the people are, in general, contented with their situation and circumstances.

In their intellectual character, they are shrewd and deliberate, rather than acute. Where they have enjoyed the advantages of early and careful cultivation, the natural strength of their intellectual powers becomes sufficiently conspicuous. In respect of moral character, the people, as a body, may justly be said to be decent, industrious, and orderly.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The whole number of imperial acres which the parish contains, as nearly as can be estimated from the actual measurement of each property, is 8626, all of which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, with the exception of those portions which are under wood.

The whole amount under wood, including hedgerows, does not much exceed 200 acres. Very few, if any, of the trees are indigenous. They are confined entirely to the poorer soils, or to the grounds around the residences of the principal proprietors. Except in two or three localities, none of those which have been planted for economical purposes have advanced so far as to be cut for timber. The young wood seems to be under good management, every attention being paid to its periodical thinning and pruning.

Rent.—The average rent of arable land in the parish does not at present exceed L. 3, 3s. or L. 3, 5s. per Scotch acre, which, at the former of these rates, is just L. 2, 10s. per imperial acre. The land is still generally let by the Scotch acre, and the rent now commonly agreed upon for the best soil, is four bushels of wheat, six bushels of barley, and six bushels of oats, converted into money at the annual fiars prices of the county. In some instances, it is stipulated that the *maximum* price paid for all these three kinds and quantities united, shall not exceed L. 3, 17s. whatever the fiars prices may happen to be,—in other words, that the fiars shall regu-

late the rent, only when the price of the three quantities does not exceed that sum. There are no grazings in the parish except in the parks or enclosed grounds of three or four of the principal proprietors. When these are let, it is always per Scotch acre, the ordinary rent being L. 3, L. 3, 10s. or L. 4. Very fine pasture sometimes brings L. 4, 10s. per acre.

Produce.—The principal articles of raw produce may be stated at the following prices, taking the average of the last seven years.

Wheat per quarter,	-	-	L. 2	11	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Barley,	-	-	1	8	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats,	-	-	1	0	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pease,	-	-	1	7	7 $\frac{1}{2}$

Oatmeal per half sack, of 140 lbs. avoirdupois, 16s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; potatoes, 10s. per boll, of 32 stones Dutch, equal to 40 imperial stones or 5 cwt., which is at the rate of 2s. per cwt.

The average price of new hay is about 8d. or 9d. per stone.

The ordinary price of provisions is regulated by the markets of Perth and Dundee.

Very little round timber, fit for mechanical purposes, is cut in the parish. What little there is, sells for 1s. per cubic foot. Building stones for rubble-work can be purchased at the quarry of Clash-bennie, at the rate of 1s. per ton; and stones for hewn-work at the rate of 6d. per linear or 9d. per cubic foot. Stones for draining are got for 6d. per ton. Quicklime can be delivered at the shore of Port-Allen, at from 3s. to 3s. 6d. per boll, of 52 stones Dutch, or 8 cwts. imperial weight.

Wages, &c.—The average rate of mason-work, in the erection of farm-houses, not including materials, is from L. 2 to L. 3 per rood. In building farm-offices the rate is from L. 1, 15s. to L. 2. The average rate of carpenter-work in roofing such buildings, with foreign timber, materials included, is from 4s. 10d. to 5s. per square yard. When home timber is employed, the rate is about 4s. per yard. Flooring, including joists, when of foreign timber, is about 5s. 6d. per yard; and when of home timber, it is about 4s.

Live-Stock.—Very few sheep are reared in the parish. Of cattle, no more are reared or kept than are required to consume the grass, straw, and turnips which are raised on the farms, and necessary for turning these productions to proper account. Much attention is paid to the quality of the horses which are reared for agricultural work.

Husbandry.—The general character of the husbandry pursued in the parish, seems to be skilful and judicious. About two-thirds

of the soil consist of *clay*, and the other third consists of what is called *black land*, being in general a fine vegetable mould. Of the former, *five-sevenths* annually are kept under a *grain* crop, and of the latter, *seven-twelfths*, according to the following method of rotation: In the clay, the rotations, generally speaking, are these seven: fallow, wheat, beans and pease, wheat, barley, grass, and oats, or, in some rare instances, wheat. In the black land, they are these six: potatoes, wheat, turnips and pease, barley, grass, and oats or wheat. From the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient crop of *grass* so often as once in six or seven years, some farmers have introduced a rotation of sevens, even in the black land, and of eights in the clay; while others seem to think that, adhering to the ordinary rotations, in regard to the other crops, it would be better, where circumstances admit, to divide the land so that this important production should not be required from the same soil, more than once in every alternate course of rotation.

The *drilling* of grains has seldom been attempted in this parish. At the time of the former Statistical Report, indeed, and for several years afterwards, the drilling of *beans*, with the usual intermixture of pease, was a common practice, and some recent attempts have been made to revive it in the district. These, however, have been without success, from the prevailing opinion, that the increase of crop would not afford sufficient remuneration for the increase of labour and expense. One plough is required for about every thirty Scotch acres that a farm may contain. Notwithstanding the curvilinear direction of the ridges, no more beautiful specimens can anywhere be seen than in this district, of equal and regular ploughing.

The rate of production on the best soils is very high. Fallow wheat has often made a return of 16 bolls per Scotch acre,* and even considerably more. Oats, also, in fine soil, and under favourable circumstances, have sometimes yielded 16 bolls. Barley has yielded 13 bolls; and pease and beans have occasionally produced 14 or 15 bolls. All these, however, are much above the average. Taking in all kinds of grain and all kinds of soil, the average rate of production is thought to be only between 7 and 8 bolls per Scotch acre. Hay is sometimes so abundant a crop, that even the first cutting yields between 300 and 400 stones per acre; but even 300 is reckoned a good crop, and considerably above the average.

* The Perthshire wheat boll is equal to 3 bushels, 3 pecks, 1.9442 gallons, imperial measure; and the boll for other grain is equal to 5 bushels, 3 pecks, 0.6009 gallons. The Scotch is to the imperial acre as 126 to 100.

Within the last ten or twelve years, many hundreds of acres have been drained so thoroughly that a drain has been laid in every *alternate*, and sometimes in every furrow. The drains are all of the narrow wedge shape.

The general duration of leases is for nineteen years.

The state of farm-buildings has of late years been very greatly and very generally improved.

Embankments.—But the principal improvement connected with agriculture, which has recently been made in this parish, is one by which the largest proprietor, John Lee Allen, Esq. has, by an extensive embankment, succeeded in recovering from the river Tay and adding to his estate, about a hundred imperial acres of deep, rich soil. Till about forty-five years ago, the river continued to make, every year, very serious encroachments on the land,—encroachments which were aided by the injudicious practice which then prevailed, of letting all the furrows discharge the surface water over the abrupt earthy banks, instead of collecting it into transverse drains, and directing it obliquely into the lower part of the shores. So serious were the inroads which the river had made on the land on this side, that the farm-house and offices on the farm of Daleally had, at two different periods been moved backwards to a more inland situation, the present one being still within 60 yards of the bank. Nay, so serious were these inroads, that they began to affect the value of the property so circumstanced. A contiguous estate of about 300 acres was sold partly from the idea of its insecurity, and, at all events, for a sum greatly below its actual value.

Soon after this transaction, however, not only was greater care employed in conducting the surface water from the furrows, but the banks were sloped down and planted,—fenced at the top by a hedge, and protected, by a retaining stone wall at the bottom, against the direct action of high tides. Besides all these expedients, projecting dikes, at convenient distances, were built from the bank towards the stream, for the purpose of retaining the copious sediment which was daily deposited on the lower side of them by the retiring waters. And, lastly, a broad *belting* of reeds was planted all along the shores, which, besides serving the important objects of breaking, in some degree, the action of the tides in summer, contributed at all times, by their strong and interwoven roots, to give stability to the soil in which they grew; while the amount of decayed vegetable matter, annually accruing from the

refuse of their stems, when they were cut for economical purposes, was gradually adding to the elevation of the surface.

These reeds, it may be mentioned, were originally planted by *dibbling* at the expense of L. 12 per Scotch acre. The average produce per acre has been about 500 bundles, each of 36 or 37 inches circumference. The expense of cutting, binding, and carrying them out, has been from 3s. 6d. to 4s. per 100 bundles, the rope-yarn being furnished by the proprietor. The average price at which those of the best quality have been sold for thatch is L. 1, 5s. per hundred bundles; and the price of those of inferior quality, now chiefly used in covering drains, is about 15s. per 100. The average number of both qualities yearly raised in the parish, before the recent embankment was made, was not less than 40,000 bundles.

The first two *reaches* of the embankment, both of them to the west of Port-Allen, when taken together, extend to fully a mile in length. The average breadth of the space enclosed is about 200 yards. They were begun and nearly finished in 1836; but in the course of the winter, and before the work was quite completed, a high tide broke in at two or three places, and did considerable damage, which was not thoroughly repaired till the spring of the present year. The width of the embankment at the bottom, is 40 feet, and the height 11 feet. It is 2 feet broad at the top, the general level of which is about 3 feet above the highest tides. The slope of the embankment is thus at the rate of nearly 4 feet in width for each foot in height. The outside of it, however, to the height of about 4 feet, is only a little inclined from the perpendicular, that part of it consisting of a strong dry-stone wall. Above this height, the slope of the outside is the same as that of inside, and is protected, moreover, by a rude causeway of stones on the surface. In both divisions of the embankment, which was constructed in 1836, the *whole* earthy material was taken from the contiguous soil itself, of the area which it was the object of the undertaking to recover. This was a great sacrifice. For about 30 yards immediately within the embankment, the soil has been excavated to a depth of 2 or 3 feet, so that what remains beneath, must, for the present, be in a great measure unproductive. The whole area enclosed, however, is about 70 imperial acres, and it is already bearing a crop of oats, which, in spite of the reeds that have still sprung up in the midst of it, has been sold at the average rate of between L. 8 and L. 9 per Scotch acre.

In the course of the present year (1837), another embankment

has been constructed along the shore to the east of Port-Allen, which extends considerably more than a quarter of a mile in length, and encloses a space which is fully wider than that on the west. The general plan and proportions of the work are the same as in that already described; but the state of the ground has, in the latter case, been more favourable, and the rich soil immediately within the embankment has been greatly saved, by cutting down the steep clayey banks of the former boundary, and employing the material thus procured in forming the foundation of the new. When this part of the undertaking is finished, Mr Allen will have recovered about one hundred imperial acres; and this is only the commencement of a process which by degrees may be carried to a much greater extent. The rest of the shores do not yet appear to be quite ready for embanking, but when this shall be the case, and supposing just the same breadth to be enclosed along the whole, the amount would not be less than another hundred acres. To facilitate such a result, a strong projecting stone dike has been put out between one side of his property and that of Murie, which intersects it on the west; and another between it and that of Seaside on the east. These walls are about three feet above the ordinary high-water mark; and the latter extends in, towards the channel of the river, not less than 600 yards. At the same time, smaller intermediate dikes have been built for the same purpose; and the embankments already executed will afford further facilities for prosecuting the same plan, and will prepare the way for the erection of others, by which they themselves may be enclosed and superseded, or rather levelled for the enriching of the newly acquired territory. Not many years can elapse, when all the three properties contiguous to the river must in this way receive an extensive and most valuable increase.

Quarries.—The only quarry now wrought in the parish, is the sandstone quarry at Clashbennie, in the mode of working which there is nothing peculiar. The quantity of rock annually quarried and disposed of is between 4000 and 5000 tons.

Fishings.—The only fishings are the salmon and the smelt, or sparling fishings. They belong exclusively to three proprietors, only one of whom attempts a fishing of the latter kind. The average annual rent of the principal salmon fishing is about L. 100; that of the second, about L. 20; and that of the third, little more than L. 10. The rent of the sparling fishing is also about L. 10.

Gross Amount of Raw Produce.—The average gross amount of

raw produce annually raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, may be stated under the following heads :

Produce of grain of all kinds, whether cultivated for food of man, or the domestic animals,	£ 45,600
potatoes and turnips cultivated in the fields,	6500
hay almost all cultivated,	9300
gardens and orchards,	1260
fisheries in the Tay,	560
annual thinning of plantations and occasional felling of wood,	50
a sandstone quarry,	200
reeds,	470
Total yearly value of raw produce raised,	£ 63,940

The valued rent of the parish is L. 16,982, 3s. 4d. Scots. The real rent in the year 1829 was L. 26,000 Sterling, including rents of houses and feus ; but, at the present time, it scarcely amounts to L. 24,000.

Manufactures.—The principal branch of manufacture carried on in the parish, is that of different kinds of linen cloth. The only other one, indeed, is the manufacture of a species of soft coarse canvas, made from a sort of secondary hemp, and intended for bags or coverings in the package of goods. In these manufactures, there are upwards of 300 persons employed as weavers, exclusive of those who are employed in spinning and winding. Of these 300, more than one-third are women.

Living in a country village, or in rural situations throughout the parish, the operatives do not seem to suffer any injury to their health, from their employment. Nor is there any evidence that they have been injured in their morals.

Navigation.—Besides the daily passage boat between Port-Allen and Newburgh, which is fitted also for the transmission of lime, timber, iron, farm-produce, and other commodities, there is but one vessel which belongs to the port now mentioned, the only one in this parish. That vessel is chiefly employed in the importation of lime and coals, and in the exportation of grain and potatoes. Various other vessels, however, are occasionally employed in carrying on the trade of this port. The quantity of lime annually imported into the parish, though not all at Port-Allen, is not less than 5000 bolls. The boll consists, as already stated, of 52 stones Dutch.

The quantity of coals annually imported at the same place, is about 700 tons of Scotch, and 300 tons of English.

The harbour dues are at the rate of 1d. per ton on articles in general, and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per boll of lime. These dues were, till lately, levied by the proprietor, on whose property the harbour is situated ;

but they have recently been claimed by the city of Perth. The proprietor, however, has the acknowledged right of the ferry to Newburgh, and lets it along with a house for the boatman, at the annual rent of about L. 20.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—The nearest market-town is Perth, which is at the distance of ten miles. The principal intercourse, however, is with Dundee, from the extensive manufactures of which, almost all those which are carried on in this parish are derived.

Besides the *village of Errol* itself, there are three others *Carse-Grange*, *Westown*, and *Lee-town*. Of these, the last mentioned is the largest, although even this does not contain a population much above 100 individuals. *Chapelhill* and *Glendoick* are hamlets rather than villages.

Means of Communication.—There is a post-office at Flatfield, which is on the public road, almost immediately below the village of Errol, and at the distance of about a mile and three quarters. Besides this, there has for many years been a receiving-house in the village, between which place and the office, a runner goes every morning; and since the month of October last, the postmaster himself has been in the practice of receiving and delivering letters in the village.

The length of turnpike roads in the parish is about nine miles. There are besides the mail, two public coaches which travel on the great turnpike road.

The only harbour yet capable of being made use of, is that of Port-Allen. Its present is rather a dilapidated state. The embankment, however, which is now going on will, among other benefits, serve to deepen the channel, and facilitate the entrance of vessels into the harbour, till such time as steps are taken for completing the new pier and harbour, about three-quarters of a mile farther down the river, and so much nearer the village of Errol.

Ecclesiastical State.—The situation of the parish church is on a gently rising ground, at the north-east end of the village of Errol. There is no place which could have been more convenient for the greater part of the population, with the exception of that on which the former church was erected, but which could not have afforded a sufficient area for the new, without an interference with the repositories of the dead in the surrounding burying-ground, which it was most desirable to avoid. Its distance from the extremities of the parish does not exceed three and a quarter,

or three and a half miles, except at one place, where the distance is between four and five miles ; but where there are not more than five or six families. It was built in 1831, and is in the best possible repair. The only benefactions on record do not exceed L. 600, the interest of which is devoted to assist in the support of the poor. There is nothing particularly interesting, connected with the history of these charitable bequests. The number of persons, for whom the church affords accommodation, is 1448.

All the sittings are possessed by the occupants, free of seat rent. With the exception of those which are allocated to the poor, and of a certain proportion of the communion table seats, which has been assigned for the promiscuous occupancy of those parishioners who neither possess nor are connected with any farm or pendicle, they are all apportioned to particular individuals ; but no heritor derives any emolument from any of the sittings ; neither do the heritors as a body.

The manse was built in 1798, and repaired in 1820.

The extent of the glebe, including the ground occupied by the manse, offices, and garden, is 4 acres, 2 roods, 11 falls, Scotch measure ; but not less than 2½ roods have been lost in the construction of a road to the manse, and by the establishment of a right of servitude over another part of the glebe. The annual value of the glebe and garden may be between L. 15 and L. 20.

The amount of the stipend, not including L. 8, 6s. 8d. allowed for communion elements, is 9 chalders* of barley, and 9 chalders of oatmeal, at the highest fiars prices of the county. The average value of these quantities of barley and meal, for the last ten years, has not exceeded L. 273, 1s. 8d.

There are three Dissenting chapels in the parish. Two of them belong to the United Secession Church, and the other belongs to the Relief Church. Their ministers are paid out of the seat rents, and in as far as these are inadequate to make the stipulated sums, the deficiency is supplied by contributions among the members. In the case of the oldest of the three, the sum to which the minister is entitled, is L. 130, exclusive of a free house and garden. In the case of both the others, the stipend is now only L. 80, with the ordinary addition of a free house and garden. These statements are made on the authority of information which the writer believes to be authentic, though not official.

* 1 Chalders of barley is equal to 11 qrs. 5 bush. 0 pk. 1.6150 gal. imperial measure ; one chalders of oatmeal is exactly equal to 160 stones.

There are four or five Episcopal families in the parish, but there is no Episcopal chapel.

The number of families attending the Established Church is 467; and the number of persons of all ages belonging to it is 2025. The Episcopalians generally attend the parish church. The number of families attending the chapels of the Dissenters is, as nearly as can at present be ascertained, 218; and the number of persons of all ages belonging to them is 906, exclusive of the very few who are not known to belong to any denomination. Divine service, both in the Established Church and in the Dissenting chapels, is generally well attended. The whole number of communicants belonging to the Established Church, is 996. The average number of those who actually communicate every year is, in the month of June, 815; and in the month of November, nearly 700.

Societies.—Of societies for religious purposes, there is, in connection with the Established Church, a parochial association, the object of which is not only to lend its annual assistance to the New Perthshire Bible Society, but also to promote the four schemes of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. The contributions of the parochial association have consisted partly of collections made in its behalf at church. The average yearly amount of these contributions has been nearly L. 20. The average amount of church collections for *charitable* purposes, exclusive of the ordinary collections for the poor, has been about L. 12.

Education.—The total number of schools in the parish, exclusive of Sabbath schools, is five. Among these, there is only one parochial school. Two of the others are partly endowed, the one by the proprietor who built it on his property, and the other by a society or body of subscribers. The endowment, however, in both cases, consists only in the teacher's enjoying the privilege of a free house and garden, as well as the school-house. The fourth school is altogether unendowed. The fifth is a small school-house in which very young children are taught mere reading, and the girls the additional art of knitting, by an elderly widow. The branches which the parochial schoolmaster is appointed to teach, are, English reading and grammar, writing, arithmetic, geography, practical mathematics, book-keeping, French, Latin, and Greek. In the two schools partly endowed, the same branches are appointed to be taught as in the parochial school, with the exception of languages; and most of these are what the masters, though not re-

quired, are sufficiently qualified to teach. The parochial school, for some years past, has been conducted entirely by an assistant and successor to the schoolmaster. The latter individual enjoys, as a retiring salary, the legal salary, which is the *maximum*, together with an addition, secured to him by the heritors, sufficient to make up to him a complete annuity of L. 40 Sterling. The assistant, so long as he continues in this capacity, enjoys from the heritors a separate and independent salary of L. 25, besides the school-house, which contains the legal accommodation, the schoolmaster's house, and the legal quantity of garden ground, * all rent free. He is also entitled to the whole of the school-fees. Having, moreover, been appointed session-clerk, he derives from this office an additional income of not less, on an average, than L. 15 a-year.

In the case of the other schools, the fees form the whole of the teacher's income, with the exception of the privileges already mentioned.

The amount of the school fees in the parochial school may, at an average, be about L. 45 per annum. The amount in the largest of the other schools, may be about L. 27; in the next, about L. 18; and in the two smallest, it cannot be more than L. 6 or L. 8. In all the schools, however, there are many instances in which the teacher finds it difficult to realize the payment of the sums which are due.

Even in the parish school, the other branches, such as French and Latin, have very seldom been required by any of the scholars.

At the time of the presbyterial examination of the schools in March 1837, the proportion of those attending them was $9\frac{1}{4}$ out of every 100 of the population.

With the exception of one district, there is no part of the parish so distant from some one or other of the schools as to prevent the attendance of children. The centre of the district in question is three miles distant from the nearest school within the parish, although it is not more than half that distance from the school of the adjoining parish. The district contains a population of about 200 individuals. One or two of the schools would require to be *enlarged*; but the only *additional* school which might be required would be in this district; but the school fees would be quite inadequate, as the experiment has already proved, to support a teacher.

In the year 1820, there were six Sabbath evening schools form-

* There is no garden ground belonging to the office of schoolmaster in this parish, but he has the privilege of a garden, for which the heritors pay rent.

ed in the parish in connexion with the Established Church. Owing chiefly to the death of some of the teachers, and the difficulty, in some localities, of finding others to occupy their places, these institutions are now reduced in number to three or four. At present, however, there is the prospect of having them restored to their former number and efficiency. There is also a Sabbath school in connexion with each of the dissenting congregations.

Literature.—Besides a small public subscription library, which was instituted in the village of Errol in the year 1824, there is a pretty large and valuable library connected with the Sabbath schools of the Established Church. It was begun in the year 1820, and now contains 378 volumes,—a portion of which is made to itinerate every year among the different local schools. In two at least of the Dissenting congregations, there is belonging to each a similar institution, though not of the same extent. From all these sources collectively, the inhabitants of this parish must enjoy the privilege of having access to the perusal of not less than 1200 volumes of useful and instructive books. This privilege, acquired chiefly through the repeated contributions of the people themselves, appears to have been justly prized, and, in ordinary times, diligently improved, especially by the young, for whom, indeed, it was principally intended.

Friendly Societies.—There is only one such institution in the parish, called “The Friendly Society of Errol.” The sole objects of this society are, 1. To afford to its members, after they have been in connexion with it for eighteen months, and paid all the sums that are due to it, a weekly allowance, when under sickness or infirmity, of not less than 6d., and not more than 4s. per week, according to the number of shares for which they have become contributors; and, 2. To afford an allowance for funeral expenses, not less than L. 1, and not greater than L. 4, according to the number of shares which they have taken in this department of the funds, and to which they have regularly contributed from the time of their entrance. The society was instituted in the month of February 1811, and remodelled in the year 1829 according to the data afforded in the Report of the Committee of the Highland Society of Scotland. The present number of its members is only 39. The nature of its regulations is such as is calculated to promote industry, and to cherish a spirit of independence among its members; but, considering the population of the neighbourhood, it would appear that there are few who have

felt inclined, or, if inclined, who have been enabled to avail themselves of its obvious advantages.

Savings Bank.—There is also one of these institutions in the parish. It is called “The Errol Parish Savings Bank,” and was established in the year 1815. The sums invested yearly, as compared with the sums withdrawn, will be seen by an inspection of the following tabular statement from the year 1817 to the year 1831, both included.

<i>Years preceding June 1st.</i>	<i>Amount of new deposits.</i>	<i>Amount of sums withdrawn.</i>
1817, -	£123 6 4	£152 8 1
1818, -	58 9 2	58 12 0½
1819, -	100 3 9	70 4 9
1820, -	61 7 9½	65 11 2
1821, -	63 2 9½	48 19 0½
1822, -	113 2 1¾	62 9 4½
1823, -	47 3 8½	75 11 4¾
1824, -	22 11 8½	48 11 11
1825, -	23 10 11½	83 13 8
1826, -	33 17 10	44 14 8½
1827, -	69 9 4	42 12 5½
1828, -	40 15 11	52 5 9
1829, -	28 6 9	39 8 3¾
1830, -	34 13 2¾	35 13 6½
1831, -	35 4 7½	25 2 6½

The largest sum total of deposits in the bank in any one year was L. 346, 9s. 6½d.; and the greatest number of depositors at any one time has not exceeded 47. In the year 1832, a panic arose as to the investment of the money belonging to savings banks in the national funds,—in consequence of which, though not unconnected with other causes, more than one-half of all belonging to the Errol Bank was withdrawn. In the year ending June 1, 1836, the institution began very slightly to revive, so that L. 18, 10s. of new deposits were received; and in the year ending in June 1837, a farther increase has been received of L. 16, 2s. 6d.—only L. 4, during the whole of these two years, having been withdrawn. The number of depositors is at present 16. They generally belong to the class of operatives, though there are a few farm labourers and servants. The existing regulations of the bank do not admit of any individual increasing the amount of his deposits beyond the sum of L. 10.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons for the last twenty-five years who have been receiving parochial aid, is 68. Of these 42 have been regular poor, and 26 occasional. At one time, in the course of that period, (1821,) the whole who received parochial aid were so numerous as 90. At present, they do not exceed 56, including two lunatics in asylums,

and four attendants, who receive nothing but in the form of wages. The average of the last eight years, (1829-1836,) during which there has been a compulsory assessment, has been 51 regular, and 21 occasional; in all 72. Of the regular poor, $33\frac{1}{2}$ have belonged to the Established Church, and the remaining $17\frac{1}{2}$ to the Dissenters; while of the occasional poor, $12\frac{1}{2}$ have belonged to the Established Church, and $8\frac{1}{2}$ to the Dissenters.

Taking the average of the same period,—the last eight years,—the total sum annually expended on the poor, regular and occasional included, has, in round numbers, been exactly L. 369; so that the average sum annually allotted to each of the above 72 is exactly L. 5, 2s. 6d. And as all the poor in the same circumstances receive the same rate of allowance, the share of the above L. 369, annually received by those 46 who have belonged to the Establishment, has been, in round numbers, L. 235; while that annually received by those 26 who have belonged to the Dissenters has been L. 134, which is considerably more than *one-third* of the whole.

The proportion of poor to the whole population, during the last eight years, has been exactly as 1 to 41; at present, notwithstanding the legal assessment, the proportion is not greater than 1 to $52\frac{1}{2}$.

During the last eight years, the average amount of annual contributions for the relief of the poor has been, as already stated, L. 369. Of this sum, the proportion arising from church collections has been L. 54; from the interest of bequests, L. 20, 15s.; from the hire of mortcloths and the parish hearse, L. 4; and from a general compulsory assessment, L. 290, 5s. This is not the whole sum raised by assessment, but only the sum actually expended on the poor. The expenses of levying the money from the heritors and inhabitants, together with the business charges of a law agent, have amounted annually to some L. 20 or L. 30 additional.

Of the assessment thus actually required for the poor, the proportion exigible from those inhabitants who do not attend the Established Church, has at no time exceeded *one-fifteenth* of the whole. At present, it is not much more than *one-twenty-eighth*; and the sum actually exacted does not much exceed the half of this, or *one-fifty-sixth*, although to the collections for the poor they contribute no proportion whatever.

Before the year 1826, the assessment for the poor was of a voluntary kind, although according to a scale of equalization, which had the general concurrence of the parties interested. Since that

date, no other mode of procuring funds has been resorted to besides those which have been sufficiently referred to in the preceding statement. As to the operation of the assessment, it must be confessed that, although it certainly has diminished the yearly amount of the ordinary collections by more than one-fourth, it has not hitherto been allowed to increase the number of the poor, nor otherwise, upon the whole, enlarge the expense of maintaining them. It has, however, been attended with a great deal of trouble and vexation. An assessment on means and substance, with all the delicacy that can be used, is of so inquisitorial a nature, that it is sure, in many instances, to give offence; and then men's means and substance are so constantly varying, that the assessment lists have yearly to undergo a corresponding alteration, else complaints and heart-burnings, if not litigations, are the almost inevitable consequences. With all the liberal and conciliatory proceedings which have been employed, it cannot yet be said that the system in this parish has been working smoothly; and several among the heritors themselves are of opinion, that, in so far as concerns their share of the assessment as a body, it would be more expedient to abandon the principles both of the real rent and of means and substance, and revert entirely to the principle of the valued rent; while, with respect to that share which may be required from the tenants and other inhabitants, they would either leave these individuals to furnish it, on any principle on which themselves should agree, or require them to adjust the matter in private with their respective landlords. Some such plan as this would not only save much trouble and expense, but it might even yet be the means of ultimately superseding a general assessment altogether, by stimulating and enlarging the more wholesome form of contributions by collections at church.

Fairs.—There were at one time two markets held in this parish, the one in the month of July, and the other in October. The latter has long been discontinued. The July market, though generally attended by an immense assemblage of people from the whole surrounding country, is almost exclusively a *hiring* market.

Inns and Ale-houses.—In the village of Errol there are eleven houses for the sale of ale and spirits, not more than three of which can be called inns. In the landward part of the parish there are three or four inns, besides two additional ale-houses. With one exception, there could not conveniently be fewer of these houses in the country districts than there are. With respect to the vil-

lage, however, there does not seem to be, in general, any necessity for a public-house to every hundred of the population.

Fuel.—Almost the only kind of fuel which is in general use in the parish is coal. The Scotch is procured from the collieries on the Forth, and the English generally from Newcastle.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The first, though not very striking, difference between the present state of the parish and that which existed at the time of the last Statistical Account, is to be found in the increase of the population from 2685 to 2942,—the increase being entirely confined to the village of Errol. Since that time, too, the rent of land, though not nearly so high as it was twenty years ago, has risen from L. 1, 5s. and L. 2 to more than L. 3 per acre. The gross rental, indeed, is nearly tripled, having increased from L. 8000 to nearly L. 24,000,—this last sum including the grounds not in lease, but retained in private possession by the proprietors. Of course, there has been a corresponding increase in the rate of wages,—those of farm-servants, for instance, having risen from L. 7, 7s. and L. 9, 9s. to L. 12 and L. 15. Another difference has taken place in the general change of the rotation of crops from a period of six to a period of seven years. A great and striking improvement has taken place in some of the houses in the village of Errol, and especially in the style and completeness of most farm-buildings throughout the parish. A more striking difference than any of these, and one which is likely to be most important in its consequences, is that by which a large extent of soil is in the course of being recovered from the Tay, where the utmost that was attempted about forty years ago, was to guard against its encroachments. One of the greatest improvements of all, however, and one which has, in a special manner, contributed to most of the others, is the increased facilities of communication, not only by the great turnpike road which passes through the parish, and which is almost at all times in a state of most admirable repair, but also by the multiplication and improved condition of the cross-roads.

In the ecclesiastical state of the parish, an important change took place in the years 1796 and 1797, by the separation of a large body of parishioners from the Established Church, in consequence of an unpopular settlement. Of that body the greater part was formed into a congregation connected with the Relief denomination, although some individuals were added to the small congregation of Antiburghers, which had existed in Errol from an

early period of the Secession, and still more to the Burghers.* In some respects, this event may have been of advantage to the religious interests of the people, inasmuch as it would have been impossible for a single minister, however faithful and active, to have exercised any thing like an efficient pastoral superintendence over nearly 3000 persons, when almost two-thirds of them were dispersed over a large territorial extent. It is to be lamented, however, as having perpetuated and increased divisions in the Christian community. While those who have now, we regret to say, taken to themselves the name of Dissenters, have incurred the expense of supporting three ministers to labour among not many more than 900 individuals, each of these three, instead of having a geographical district assigned to him, and being placed in the midst of the undivided population committed to his charge, has to encounter the disadvantage of visiting the scattered sections of his little flock over the whole bounds of the parish,—nay, has even to penetrate into other parishes in the discharge of his duty towards those individuals, however few in number, who, in these distant localities, are connected with his congregation, and over whom it can rarely happen that an elder can be placed. To impartial men, these have appeared, and will appear, to be serious disadvantages. Had not the unhappy separation taken place to which reference has now been made, thoughts must by this time have been entertained of creating a second charge, by an ecclesiastical subdivision of the parish; and it is no reflection on any of the existing labourers, to say, be they ever so zealous and able, that two such labourers, with a manageable population of 1200 or 1500 each, within well-defined and moderate limits, would have done the work more effectually, more conveniently to themselves, and more economically to the people, than it can be done under present circumstances by all the four, and that, too, while far greater harmony and unanimity would have prevailed.

The only other important difference which appears between the present and the former state of the parish, is one which relates to the number and support of the poor. In 1791, the number of the regular poor was 36; at present, it is 52, and for the average of the last eight years has been 51. The sum annually paid to the regular poor alone, at the former period, was L. 70; at present, (not including the board of patients in lunatic asylums,) it is L. 212, showing a greatly increased rate of allowance, occasioned partly,

* The last two are now part of the United Secession Church.

but not entirely, by the increased rate of provisions. At the former period, the annual amount of the collections at church, even when there were comparatively few Dissenters in the parish, was L. 40; at present, when they are 900 in number, and when an assessment, in one form or another, has existed for years, the collections amount annually to L. 54.

December 1837.

PARISH OF LONGFORGAN.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNDEE, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS.

THE REV. R. S. WALKER, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—THE ancient name of the parish seems to have been somewhat different from the present, as appears from a grant of the lands and barony of "Longforgund" or "Lonfor-gaund," by King Robert Bruce, in the year 1315, to Sir Andrew Gray of Broxmouth. The epithet *long*, which is quite appropriate to the village, and by no means unsuitable to the parish itself, is prefixed probably to distinguish it from two other parishes,—For-gan, in Fife, nearly opposite to Dundee, and Forgardenny, in Strathearn, another district of Perthshire. Forgan or Forgund, in the absence of a better or more certain derivation, has been alleged to signify *foreground*,—a term, in fact, by which the parish is not unfitly described. The whole of it, excepting one farm, lies to the south of the Sidlaws, and, with a slight interruption, sweeps gradually downwards from that range of hills to the river Tay, by which it is bounded.

The greatest length of the parish, from north-west to south-east, is about 9 miles. But it varies so much in breadth from 4 miles to $1\frac{1}{2}$, as to contain only about 14 square miles, or 8002 imperial acres. It forms the eastern extremity of the Carse of Gowrie. It is surrounded on three sides, the west, north, and east, by the parishes of Inchtute, Abernyte, Kettins, Lundie and Foulis, and Liff and Benvie; while for its southern limit it has the Tay, along which it extends for four or five miles.

Topographical Appearance and Soil.—This parish presents great