

PARISH OF LOGIERAIT.*

PRESBYTERY OF WEEM, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.

THE REV. SAMUEL CAMERON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE parish is never spoken of by the Gaelic inhabitants but by the name of Laggan. In old authors, we find "Logie in Athole" mentioned. It would appear, therefore, that Rait is a modern affix to Laggan or Logie,—the name by which the parish or district was originally known, and which means *a hollow*. Perhaps Rait was added to distinguish it from the parish of Laggan in Badenoch, which was anciently within the same regality, under the "Lords of Badenoch and Athole," who were princes of the Royal family of Scotland. *Rait* is supposed to be the same word with *reite*, which means arbitration or settlement of differences. *Logierait* is, therefore, *the hollow of arbitration*,—very descriptive of its situation and character as the seat of a court of regality. It must, however, be observed, that, according to the usual uncertainty of Gaelic etymology, *Rait* is a syllable to which several different meanings may be given.

Extent, Boundaries, Appearance, &c.—The figure and locality of the parish are both very irregular, on account of its occasional dispersion, by detached and sometimes distant parts, into other parishes. On the north side of the river Tummel it has for its eastern, northern, and western boundaries the parishes of Dunkeld, Kirkmichael, and Moulin,—the first and last of which, however, insert themselves into it respectively, in considerable portions, at some distance from the boundaries. Its southern boundary is the Tay until it crosses that river near Aberfeldy, and introduces itself in a detached fragment between the parishes of Dull and Fortingall. The portion of it which lies between the Tay and the Tummel has for its eastern boundary these two rivers at their junction, and is bounded on the west by Moulin, Dull, and Weem. This part of the parish receives two different insertions from the

* Drawn up by the Rev. Thomas Buchanan, now Minister of Methven.

parish of Dull, forming the estates of two proprietors. The parish then takes a bound of twenty miles and upwards over the parishes of Weem, Dull, and Fortingall, and is found, in two separate portions, in the district of Rannoch. Its extent must be estimated rather from the particulars of its statistics than from any statement of its length or breadth in miles, since there are so many interruptions to its contiguity. The greatest length may be stated at probably 12 miles, and the mean breadth at 5.

This parish, and, in particular, the larger division of it, which lies between the Tay and the Tummel, is very remarkable for beauty. Washed by these, among the most romantic of the *Scoto-Celtic* streams; formed by them into two straths, which a sloping ridge of hill divides and commands, Strathtay on the one side, Slisbeg, or the narrow country, on the other;—cultivated as if by the gardener; or varying its beauty by wood and pasture, and living water; with many a fair residence ranged along both slopes of the hill as along a gallery,—it would be difficult, in any country, to point out a scene of more perfect amenity. It is relieved from the character of tameness by the frowning features of rocks and mountains which overlook it from the neighbouring parishes.

Climate.—The air is here pure and dry,—qualities which it probably owes to the light sandy character of the soil, the infrequency of marshes, the comparative distance of very high mountains, and the remoteness of the situation from either ocean. Fevers and small-pox are rare, except when imported by vagrants, when they are sometimes very difficult to expel from the poorer hamlets and cottages. The aged suffer from rheumatism, and the young are somewhat liable to consumptive disorders. There is reason to believe in the extensive prevalence of scrofula; dropsy is also common, and what are called nervous disorders.

Hydrography.—We have no lakes, unless one or two small pieces of water on the summit of mountainous ridges deserve the name.* The only rivers are the Tay and the Tummel. The falls of Moness are formed by the stream which divides Logierait from Dull, near Aberfeldy.

Soil.—The soil is of a light and pervious nature, consisting of gravel, with a mixture of alluvial soil from the higher grounds. This description applies to the haughs or low lands. On the slope the soil is deeper, and of a thick substantial loamy quality. But,

* The most distant part of the parish, indeed, skirts Loch Rannoch for about three miles.

in the district north of the Tummel, as you ascend the slope, the soil is apt to be cold and spouty, as they call it, or abounding in springs, with a subsoil of retentive clay.

Mineralogy.—Useful quarries, for common purposes, are occasionally opened on almost every estate; but, except some strata of limestone, which cross the parish in one or two places, there are, as I am given to understand, no mineralogical phenomena of which it is worth while to give a detail.

Botany.—The plants are such as are common to the other localities, of which the haughs stretch along the banks of the Tay and Tummel. The mountain district of the parish on the north of Tummel is, in its character, identical with the other elevated parts of Athole, full lists of whose natural productions, in the department of Botany, occur in the articles of Blair-Athole and Moulin, already contributed to this work. The trees, to the growth of which the soil and climate are most propitious, are, the larch, with the different varieties of fir cultivated in Scotland, the oak, the ash, the elm, the beech, the poplar, and the plane. In some situations, the alder seems, at one time, to have grown very plentifully. In pleasure grounds and gardens, trees and plants of considerable delicacy are found in a thriving state. There are many specimens of the Acacia. Walnuts frequently ripen; and a vine, on the southern wall of one of the residences in Strathtay, has been known to yield ripe fruit. There is a remarkable ash-tree in the innkeeper's garden, near the village of Logierait. It measures at the ground $53\frac{1}{2}$ feet in circumference, at three feet from the ground 40 feet, and at eleven feet from the ground 22 feet. The height is 60 feet; but the upper part of the stem appears to have been carried away. The height is said to have been, at one time, nearly 90 feet. The trunk is hollow from the base, and can contain a large party. This venerable stem is surrounded by a profusion of foliage, which, even in the advanced age of the tree, attracts the eye at a distance to its uncommon proportions. An old man of the age of one hundred is at present in the habit of taking his seat daily within the hollow formed by its three surviving sides,—no unsuitable companion to the vegetable relic!

Zoology.—The animals are such as are common to the neighbourhood. Squirrels are extremely numerous in the woods and plantations.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

This parish does not appear to have been the scene of any event of historical importance. The people, however, seem to have taken much interest, and commonly to have taken a part in transactions which have made Athole, as a province, so celebrated in Scottish history. The names of Stewart, Robertson, and Murray, are very frequent, and speak to the part which the natives must be supposed to have acted in times of commotion, and more particularly in the Jacobite wars. There were 600 prisoners sent hither from the battle of Gladsmuir by Lord George Murray. Stewart of Ballechin, chamberlain to the Marquis of Athole, took possession of the Castle of Blair-Athole at the beginning of Viscount Dundee's insurrection, and fortified it for King James. He rendered completely abortive a mission of the Marquis's eldest son to his father's tenants, for the purpose of securing their neutrality, and refusing the young nobleman admission to his own father's house. In the battle of Killiecrankie, a son or nephew of this person, who is said to have been a clergyman, distinguished himself by prodigies of strength. He cut down (as tradition says) Brigadier Balfour with an enormous two-handed sword, which he used with such vigour and application throughout the day that, it is said, his hand could only be extricated from the basket-hilt by cutting away the net-work.

Court of Regality at Logierait.—The jurisdictions of the House of Athole were very extensive down to late times. They were administered by a commissary and other officers. Logierait was the seat of court. And there are scattered around the neighbourhood a variety of memorials of the formidable power exercised under their authority, in the names of *Bal-na-Maoir*, "the town of the rogue-takers;" *Tom-na-Croich*, "the gallows-hill," &c. There are, I am sorry to understand, no records extant of the procedure of the Court, although there is a record, in good preservation, of the jurisdiction of the same family in their barony of Huntingtower. Justice—such justice as was then current—seems to have been dispensed with much energy by the Lords of Athole within their Regality Court of Logierait, down to the farthest date at which such power could be exercised with any safety, and that at least, if there be truth in the following anecdote:—Somewhere about the year 1745, Lord President Forbes happening to be on a visit at Blair Castle, was told by the Duke of an application, strongly backed, for mercy to a poor fellow whom his Com-

missary at Logierait had sentenced to be hanged. "But you know," said the President, "that mercy belongs to the King, and cannot be extended by a judge after sentence." To which the Duke's answer is said to have been a peremptory express (ordered within hearing of the Lord President) to his commissary, to set the criminal immediately at liberty. But by this time we suppose the Regality of Athole had sunk into a plain Court of Barony, where law was stately administered by a bailie and commissary within memory. I find in the session records some strange instances of application, on the part of the session, to the commissary, to grant warrant against and imprison parties under scandal for refusing to delate or compear, *e. g.*, 24th February 1717. The minister reported he frequently conversed with Elspet Kennedie to no purpose; that she continued stubborn and unruly, until that he procured a warrant from his Grace the Duke of Athole to incarcerate her in the common jail of Logierait; and after she was brought by a party to the place, finding no relief, she procured James Stewart, miller in Pitnacre, to bail for her submission to the session," &c.

There was here a court-house of such ample proportions, that the principal hall is said to have been the noblest apartment in Perthshire in its time. The building, in a ruinous state, is still well remembered; and the justiciary hall is said to have been upwards of seventy feet in length, with galleries at the ends. The powers possessed by Courts of Regality, which, as the name denotes, was royal, and almost unbounded, must have been sufficiently terrible, in such hands, for example, as those of the famous Wolf of Badenoch, whose *legal reign* embraced the lordship of Athole and Badenoch, and extended from Strathspey to Loch Katrine.

Antiquities.—In the neighbourhood of the village, there are the ruins of an ancient building, said to have been a castle or hunting-seat of King Robert III. The royal residence may be traced in the names of *Bal-na-gard*, "the guard's town;" King's Stables; *Glaic-an-righ*, or "King's hollow," which are names of places in the neighbourhood. King's Stables is the name of a spot about 800 yards to the west of the ruin. In digging into a hollow for soil and decayed vegetable matter near the place, the tenant, some years ago, found a causewayed floor, at the depth of several feet below the surface, from which he picked up the iron of a small pitchfork of antique appearance. The place is again filled up, and the stones were most likely in part displaced. Two copper

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coins are in the same person's possession, and bearing apparently the date 1070. They were found in the field between the King's Stables and the ruins of King Robert's castle. *Glaic-an-righ* is a hollow way, cut through the side of a steep eminence, which forms part of the glebe. This is supposed to have been the access to the royal residence, and must have been a work of immense labour.

There are, near Middlehaugh, the lines of an encampment, such as are so frequently met with in Perthshire; and there is, near Aberfeldy, in the parish, an eminence called the Torr or battle-hill, surrounded with similar lines. We have many stones, either single or ranged in circles, and burial-grounds of great antiquity; but I have discovered nothing remarkable except the stone of Dunfallandy, which was long the object of much superstitious attention to the natives. The part of it above ground, for it is much sunk, discovers the grotesque figures of several animals.

On one side there is some ambitious tracery and fretted work. The animals are of nondescript appearance and proportions. The figures are indeed partly decayed or effaced. The human forms bear an awkward resemblance to the knave on a pack of cards. On the other side, are two sitting figures, attired, as seems, in priestly vestments, with a tall cross between them. Below is an armed figure on horseback—most probably some military saint or knight-errant.

Such stones are frequently met with, as at Abernethy, St Madoes, Dunkeld, &c. and are very improperly regarded as Runic monuments. They are in fact rude samples of the Popish rage for sculpture, being always found in connection with the ruins of chapels.

There is, at Dunfallandy, another stone still more celebrated, though presenting nothing to the eye but a rude block, marking the *bloody eminence* from which the locality derives its name—the scene of a dreadful scene of murder and usurpation.

A medal, supposed of Trajan, was found in this neighbourhood, and presented to the late Professor Fergusson of Edinburgh.

Eminent Characters.—Dr Adam Fergusson was the son of the Rev. Adam Fergusson, minister of the parish of Logierait. Authentic particulars of his life, from information partly collected in this place of his nativity, will be found in the Supplement to the fifth edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Of course nothing can now be added to the well-known particulars of the life of so eminent a public character.

Robert Bissett, LL.D., author of a *Life of Edmund Burke*, and of some other publications, was the son of the Rev. Dr Bissett, minister of this parish.

Dr William Dick, of Tullymet, was, during many years, a physician of great eminence in the East India establishment. It appears by the following notice of this excellent individual, that he on one occasion laid his country under obligations of no ordinary nature. In a letter to Mrs M'Lean Clephane, Sir Walter Scott writes, (in 1819, when his life was in danger,) "My health, however, seems in a fair way of being perfectly restored." (After noticing his regimen,) "Dr Dick of the East India Company's Service has put me on the course of cure, and says he never knew it fail, unless when the liver was irreparably injured." (Lockhart's *Life of Sir Walter Scott*, Vol. iv. p. 281.) Sir Walter considered Dr Dick as the preserver of his life; and has recorded his sense of obligation on a valuable silver inkstand, suitably inscribed, now in possession of the family.

Land-owners, with their valued rents :—

The Duke of Atholl,	L. 1481	0	10	Scots.
R. Stewart, Esq. of Ballechfin,	910	17	11	
J. Menzies of Pitnacree,	492	13	4	
R. S. Flemyng of Killiechassie,	396	4	0	
Major-General Sir R. H. Dick of Tullymet,	353	17	6	
Colonel Macdonald of Dalchoisnie,	234	0	0	
W. S. B. Campbell of Clochfoldich,	217	11	5	
F. G. Campbell of Troup,	216	5	0	
Archibald Butter of Fascally,	211	19	4	
A. Fergusson of Dumfallandy,	191	0	0	
Mrs M'Glashan of Eastertyre,	165	0	0	
J. M'Gregor of Founah,	137	0	0	
A. Stewart of Findynate,	129	6	8	
J. S. Robertson of Edradynate,	120	0	0	
The Marquis of Breadalbane,	111	15	0	
R. D. Macfarlane of Donavoured,	03	0	0	
General Robertson of Strowan,	87	13	4	
J. M. Fergusson of Middlehaugh,	38	4	0	
J. S. Hepburn, Esq.	31	0	0	

The real rental is upwards of L.8000.

Ministers of the Parish.—Mr James Moray was admitted 1650, and filled the charge with much acceptance, *per varios sui temporis motus*, as his epitaph says, till 1695. This respectable clergyman was the second son of Patrick Moray of Ochtertyre; and his eldest brother was the first Baronet of that family, (created 1673.) He was succeeded in the parochial charge by his son, Mr Mungo Moray, who died in 1714; and was succeeded by Mr Adam Fergusson, ordained minister of Crathie and Braemar in 1702, and admitted to Logierait in 1715.

A variety of procedure occurs in the Presbytery records in relation to this settlement; as, a counter-presentation by Lord Stormont, claiming to be patron of the parish, in favour of Mr Moncrieff, minister of Methven, "a person ignorant of the Irish language;" and a complaint against Mr George "Robertson, for intruding upon the paroch of Logierait, and kirk thereof, praying in express terms for the Pretender," &c. This person's proceedings seem to have originated in the authority which he conceived himself to have received from the following strange document, of which I have the original before me:—

"By William Marquess of Tullibardine,

"These are ordering and empowering you to preach every Lord's day, and other solemn occasions, in the church of Logierait, and to exercise all the other parts of the ministerial functions within that parish, as you'll be answerable at your peril; for doing of which this shall be to you a sufficient warrant. Given at Logierait the 12th of December 1715 years,

(Signed) TULLIBARDINE."

Annexed is the solemn seal of that Noble person.

Mr Adam Fergusson officiated in the ministry at Logierait till 1754; when Dr Thomas Bissett was admitted, who died in 1800; and was succeeded by Mr Thomas Menzies, who died in 1831; he was succeeded by Mr Thomas Buchanan, admitted minister of Methven in November 1841; and he by the present incumbent, inducted August 1842.

Parochial Registers.—The most complete (the volume commencing with Mr Menzies's ministry excepted) is a volume containing minutes from 1639 to 1664. This volume was recovered and restored to the kirk-session by Principal Lee in 1819.

The volume had been, it seems, advertised for sale in Mr Constable's catalogue, several years before the title attracted Principal Lee's notice; and when he inquired at Mr Constable how he might be able to trace it, he found that Mr Constable had transferred it from his stock in trade to his own private collection, whence he withdrew it that he might present it to Principal Lee. Shortly thereafter, Principal Lee took occasion to replace it in the custody of the kirk-session, in whose records the fact is very properly and gratefully acknowledged, "I considered it at the time when it came into my hands," the Principal observes, "as a curious memorial of the state of the country in the time of the Covenanters, and still look upon it as an important document, though I have examined

many others which enter into much more minute details. The parts of the volume which appeared to me most interesting related to the schools. I have reason to believe that the state of education in Perthshire was much better from the year 1640 to 1700, than it was from 1740 to 1800." The remaining fragments are from 1672 to 1682, and thereafter with many breaks and lost leaves down to 1714, after which the record is continued with rather more regularity down to the beginning of this century, when it becomes in all respects more regular and complete. The temptation to abstract the lost volume seems to have been the curious elegance of the penmanship in which the entries are generally made.

III.—POPULATION.

The population has, during several years, remained nearly stationary. There are very few villages in the parish, and the change in the agricultural system pursued by the landlords has not been so great as to make any observable difference in the number of the rural population.

The population of the parish in 1831 was	9138
Males,	1483
Females,	1655
The number of inhabited houses is,	683
Average number of persons in each family from	4 to 5
The number of houses uninhabited or building,	32
Population in 1841,	2774

There are 4 insane, 5 fatuous, 2 deaf and dumb, 2 blind.

Yearly average of births during the last seven years, about	70
marriages when both parties are in the parish,	9
the man only was in the parish,	5
the woman only in the parish,	4

There is no register of deaths, and it would be exceedingly fallacious and unsafe to offer any conjecture on that subject from the mere amount of mortcloth dues, on account of the number of parishioners, who bury in other parishes, and of extra-parochial persons, who bury here. It is to be regretted that parents are careless in the extreme of the privileges and duty of registering the names of their children.

The language generally spoken is the Gaelic. It cannot be said to be getting into disuse as the language of the fireside among the common people; but it is falling into manifest decline as a branch of school education.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—

Imperial acres either cultivated or occasionally in tillage,	5002
which have never been cultivated, exclusive of moor,	8209½

Imperial acres which are reported as improvable, but as in some situations wood is displaced to make room for crop, if this system is found to answer, a much greater space may be recoverable for tillage,

Acres in a state of common,	284
under wood,	768
under moor,	2899
	15533

The larch plantations of the Duke of Athole cover the greater part of the ground which is described as under wood. In this situation, they are in the highest degree healthy and thriving; although I should judge from appearance, that thinning is in some cases not sufficiently attended to. In woods of such immense extent, this object is perhaps scarcely attainable, and the thinnings are in some degree according to the demand for materials for fences, &c.

Rent of Land.—The rent of arable land in the parish varies from L.1, 5s. to L.2, 10s. per acre. The haugh lands, on the banks of the Tay and Tummel, give the highest rent, although by no means formed of the richest soil in the parish, which is commonly found on the slope ascending above the haughs. The haughs have of course the advantage in point of dryness, easy cultivation, and early ripening; and, when enriched by strong distillery manure, are usually distinguished in the award of premiums for crop.

Live Stock.—The breeds of horses and cattle are too generally of the mixed and non-descript character, long established in the district. Spirited examples of a better and more improved style of breeding have been set, however, of late, both by some of the proprietors and tenants. Horses for improving the breed have been introduced under the auspices of the Weem and Athole Agricultural Club. Leicester sheep have, in some instances, replaced the more ordinary breeds with great success. The Ayrshire breed of cattle is preferred on the best farms. An attempt has been made this year to improve in feeding qualities the Ayrshire breeds, by crossing them with a short-horn bull; but of course nothing can be said decisively as to the result in so short a time.

A cow may be grazed at from L.1, 5s. to L.1, 15s.; a ewe in the parks, at 5s., and on the hill, at 3s. per year.

The following may be given as a specimen of the prices of labour. Farm-servant's wages, L.14; maid-servant's do., L.6 per year; day labourer without victuals, 1s. 6d.; with, 1s. 2d.; female labourer, 8d.; journeyman mason, 2s. 6d.; carpenter, 2s.;

weavers and shoemakers, 10s. per week; tailor, 1s. a-day with board.

Improvements.—Embanking and draining have been carried on to a great extent in certain situations of late. There are on the banks of the Tay and Tummel, about 6400 roods of embankment. Waste land is in course of being reclaimed with great activity and skill in almost every district of the parish. In this parish some attention has been paid of late to the improvement of lands under wood. The ground on which the experiments have been made, was formerly planted, for the most part, with Scots fir and oak. The results are said to be, in a considerable degree, promising, and it is possible, that, as the value of coppice has been declining from a variety of causes, there may be inducements elsewhere to the adoption of a similar practice where the soil chances to be worthy of redemption.

The method adopted is to contract in the month of August to trench such a portion of waste and woodland as may be determined on. The trenching is performed to the depth of fourteen inches. The operation is finished about December, so as to give the benefit of the winter frost, to break the rough clods. Early in the ensuing spring, the land is thoroughly drained; the large stones blasted out; the drains are then filled with the small stones, and the remainder removed to the boundaries of the field for fencing.

The land is subsequently twice ploughed, and then drilled for turnips, which are dibbled in with bone-dust at the rate of sixteen bushels per acre. In ordinary seasons, the result is a fair crop of turnips, which are eaten off the ground by a flock of Leicester sheep. The following year, the land is limed with twenty bushels of the best lime per acre, and sown with potato oats and the finest mixed perennial natural grass-seeds. The *after-math* is then pastured with sheep, and the parks, subsequently depastured with that stock, for at least three years before it is broken up for tillage. By this mode of management, it has been found, in some cases, that the capital expended on each field has been redeemed in five years or crops.

Obstacles to Improvement.—The only obstacles to the improvement of agriculture that I am aware of in this parish are, first, the prevalence of small holdings, and, second, the consequent want of capital to be expended on improvement by that class of agriculturists. In many situations, the land is let in little patches, varying

from one acre to fifteen, to the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages or hamlets. The disadvantages of this system are to the landlord over-cropping, expense in buildings and repairs, sometimes to the amount of five or six years' rent at the commencement of a lease, and the neglect of any improved system of tillage; and to the tenant, a frequent struggle with difficulties in keeping up the skeleton of a little farming establishment, in paying for smith and wright work, and in combining with the labour of his own land extra jobs as a labourer. This and similar depressing concomitants would seem to point out the advantage of a gradual change of system to all parties. I am, however, no friend to the expulsion of any part of the community not chargeable with crime, and would humbly suggest, that caution, tenderness, and time be used and allowed in the treatment of the hamlet population, and in the alteration of their circumstances. The remedy, I should hope, may in part be left with themselves, as I observe in this class a growing anxiety to educate their children, and to send them from home for improvement and employment—a practice which in many individual cases has resulted in raising their children far above the depressing circumstances in which they began life.

Farm-houses and offices are of a very inferior description, as might be expected, unless of very recent erection. But of late great attention has been paid to the improvement of this department; and in two or three instances, resident owners of estates have set an example of the most perfect kind of accommodation suitable to a large farm, by the erection of home steadings, or offices on the most improved principles, with saw-mills and other facilities for fences and enclosures. The duration of leases is nine, thirteen, and fifteen years.

The five-shift rotation of crops is generally adopted by the tenants of farms, and the four-shift by the cottars. A very few of the farmers practise the six-shift rotation.

Produce.—The crops raised are, wheat, producing 9 bolls per Scots acre; oats, from 5 to 8 do.; barley, from 5 to 9 do.; potatoes, from 40 to 50 do.; rye, 9 do. Rye is sown in small patches by the tenantry for their own use; as is also lint, which, forty years ago, occupied perhaps every fourth arable acre in the parish. Turnips are extending in breadth every year. The only other crop is clover, the average yield of which may be stated at 200 stones of 22 pounds per acre. This crop will, in all probability, soon pass to form part of this rotation, as its produce is rapidly de-

creasing every year. When first introduced, the second cutting was much more luxuriant than the first at present, and even a third cutting was on good land often obtained.

Distilleries.—There are six distilleries at work in the parish. The consumption is about 32,565 bushels of malt yearly, from which there are distilled 65,087 gallons of spirits, paying a net duty to Government (before the late addition) of L.8678, 5s. 4d. It deserves to be stated, in fairness, that the result of late inquiries as to the interference of these distilleries with the sanctification of the Sabbath, was very creditable to the Christian feeling of the several partners; and that the near neighbourhood of distilleries does slightly affect the morals of the parish, but, owing to some regulation, less, on the whole, than might have been supposed. Edinburgh and Dundee, and occasionally Glasgow, are the markets to which the spirits are chiefly sent; but an increasing quantity is now consumed in Perth and Perthshire. The duty on malt is not included in the above estimate of the revenue paid to Government. At the time when the inquiries were directed to the distilleries, the duty on malt was 2s. 7d. per bushel, and on spirits 2s. 8d. per gallon. The whole malt is distilled within the parish, and the malt duty is to be estimated with the drawback. About one-third of the barley consumed is the produce of the parish.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Villages.—The village of Logierait, near the church, contains a population of about 150 persons, and the portion of Aberfeldy which belongs to this parish may contain nearly 300. The village of Logierait is almost ruinous, and the only relic of its former very considerable importance is an annual fair on the 22d of August. Wester Aberfeldy is improved with a number of excellent new houses and shops.

Means of Communication.—Strathtay has the convenience of an excellent turnpike road. At Logierait, the communication with this road is by two ferries, one on the Tay, and the other on the Tummel. These ferries connect the Strathtay road with the great road to Inverness on the north, and with that to Breadalbane (from Dunkeld) on the south. There are good ferry-boats. That on the Tummel is of novel construction, adapted by the artist and inventor, Mr James Frazer, mill-wright, Dowally, to the character of the river. It is a fly-bridge, consisting of two boats placed along-side of each other, at the distance of a few feet, and connecting amid-ships by a platform, moveable on pivots, placed over

the centre of each boat, and by a connecting moveable rod fastened to the stern heads. The vessel is slipped across on a chain,—there being a suitable apparatus for changing the relative positions of the boats and platform. The main improvement on the action of the common ferry-boat is, by setting the boats below in an oblique position to the stream, when, if the boats are placed so as to receive the impulse of the current on the larboard bows, they will be moved gently to the starboard across the river, and, by shifting their position till the stream impinges on the starboard bows, the bridge will return to the point from whence it started, and that without any assistance of manual labour. There is a swing-boat on another part of the river; but the near vicinity of a bridge lately erected has caused it to be, in a great measure, disused. There is a fourth regular ferry in the parish. There is a post daily, with the exception of Tuesday.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church I regard as, under present circumstances, conveniently situated. It is within half a mile of the junction of the Tay and the Tummel, and within a few hundred yards of the two principal ferries. As about a third of the population is located on the farther side of the Tummel ferry, and as a considerable number of the parishioners of Little Dunkeld are located in a parallel situation to this parish on the south side of the Tay ferry, there can be no doubt of the convenience of the situation of the church, in so far as they are concerned. On the other hand, the length of Strathtay, at nearly the extreme end of which the church is placed, renders the situation, in some respects, inconvenient to the inhabitants of that district, who, in consequence, are partly driven to seek such accommodation as they can find in the parish church of Weem and the chapel of Grandtully. Frequent interruption to regularity of attendance occurs in winter from the swollen state of the rivers, by which the ferries are rendered impracticable. Otherwise, there is a very commendable attention paid by all classes, and, I may add, by all religious denominations in the district to sacred ordinances. The church was finished in 1806, and is in a good state of repair. It accommodates 1000 persons. The manse was built in 1804; it has since received extensive additions in the kitchen and servants' department. In 1833, sufficient and substantial offices were built. The glebe consists of four acres and a half Scots, exclusive of grass for two cows. The stipend amounts to sixteen chalders, half meal and half barley, at the highest fiars prices for the county, with L. 10

for communion elements. The Parliamentary church of Rannoch embraces, *quoad sacra*, the part of the parish which is situated in that remote district. There is no chapel of ease, missionary, or catechist. There is an Episcopal chapel, and also a Baptist meeting-house. There are in this parish 50 Episcopalians, 30 Baptists, 10 Independents, and 2 Roman Catholics. There were distributed this year the following sums for religious and charitable objects, and I consider the amount as fairly proportionate to the resources of the parish, as well as an average specimen of what is done in this department: Perth Infirmary, L.8; India Mission, L.5; Assembly's Schools, L.5; Church Extension, L.4; Colonial Churches, L.4; parish Sabbath schools, L.5; circulation of missionary intelligence, L.2; total, L.33. There have also been collected among different denominations for the Branch Bible Society at Dunkeld sums ranging from L.10 to L.16 per annum, during a number of years. The provision and outlay for the poor is, on an average, as follows: Collections, L.50, 6s. 4d.; interest of stock of L.150, L.6; church dues, mortcloth, donations, &c., L.32, 14s. 2½d.; extraordinary provision for idiot poor, L.18. At present none is supported in any asylum.

There are on the poor's roll commonly about 32 persons, exclusive of Parliamentary district; and the number of persons occasionally relieved is about 12. The monthly allowance varies from 2s. 6d. to 4s. A very few cases are relieved to the amount of 6s. monthly.

Education.—There is one parish school, one free or endowed school, and there are eight adventure schools; total number of scholars receiving the benefit of a common education, 634. The parish school is endowed with the maximum salary, and L.5 yearly from the rents of the bishoprick of Dunkeld.

Stewart's Free School, Strathtay.—David Stewart was a native of Strathtay. Removing to Edinburgh in early life, a poor lad, he found employment in the family of one of the Barons of Exchequer, and subsequently became a macer in that court. Besides leaving funds, which are soon to become available for the endowment of an hospital in Edinburgh, he left a sum for the purchase of six acres of land, and the erection of a school-house, for the encouragement of education in his native district, with the interest of L.2500 for the support of a master and assistant, and the supply of stationery and prizes. The duties of the trustees and masters are ascertained by the contents of a deed containing

a variety of useful instructions. Here nearly 200 scholars annually receive, gratis, the benefit of a most excellent education in the ordinary branches. A similar endowment, that should put the northern wing of the parish on a footing with Strathtay, would, in addition to the parochial school, form an ample provision for the educational necessities of this wide-spread parochial charge. The scholars throughout the parish are in the proportion of 360 males to 270 females. Persons that cannot read, above fifteen years of age, 50. There are two sewing-schools on a Society salary. About 50 girls attend. There are six Sabbath schools, which are taught gratis, either by the ordinary teachers, by members of the kirk-session, or other qualified individuals. It is deemed advisable to teach them on a uniform and very simple system. Each teacher is provided with a small manuscript book, prepared by the minister, in which are marked, under several periods, a series of Scripture lessons, adapted to give a general and consecutive view of the Bible history. The principal dates, with numeral references to the chapters or parts of chapters illustrative of each period, as also to the prophecies delivered under each, are alone entered in the manuscript. A rigorous, patient, and minute examination on each portion of Scripture read forms the chief exercise, and is entrusted to the teachers under the occasional and periodical supervision of the minister. The Shorter Catechism is gone over, by very minute portions at a time, in the same way. Memory-work is in a great measure dispensed with, except as connected with intellection and reference; the first end in view being to lead the young to a habit of reading the Scriptures with attention and understanding. There are 230 scholars in attendance on six Sabbath schools.

Friendly Societies.—The Strathtay Farmers' Friendly Society commenced in January 1826. Since that time, 620 members have been entered in their books, including about 50 honorary members, who derive no benefit from it. It has paid upwards of L.1000 to the objects of its institution, and has about as much more at interest. It allows 4s. a-week for the first sixteen weeks of a member's illness, 3s. for the next like period, and 2s. so long as he may continue on the invalid list.

The Athole Wrights' Brotherly Society was instituted at Logierait in 1812. 676 members have since been entered on the books. Expended L.2568. Present stock at interest, L.1148. There are at present 13 men and 4 widows receiving seasonable support from the fund.

Savings' Bank.—At Aberfeldy there is a Savings' bank. It was instituted in 1833. There is but a small portion of this parish which has the privilege of depositing, by which nearly L.200 have been deposited and about L.70 withdrawn.

Inns and Ale-houses.—There are two inns and seven ale-houses; of the latter description certainly by far too many. The *Feill-ma-choit*, (Sacred festival of St Machutus?) was once a very considerable market; and there is a small cattle-market at Pitnacree in spring.

Fuel.—Fuel is scarce and expensive. It consists of oak-cuttings, at about 5s.; peat, at 3s.; coal from Perth, at about L.1, 5s. a cart, including carriage.

There are eight meal-mills, two flax, two saw-mills, and one for the manufacture of potato-starch.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The march of learning, and, in some respects, of real improvement, since the last Statistical Account was published, is very noticeable. Then, linen yarn was the staple article of export and manufacture, bringing into the parish yearly nearly L.3000 Sterling. Now, there is no reason to suppose that a single stone of lint is in any shape exported from the parish. Then, the philabeg and tartan hose were commonly worn. Now, this dress is almost never seen. "Many of the young women," says the former statist, "had printed cotton gowns and duffie cloaks." Now, silks and cloth pelisses are, I suspect, as common as those luxuries of dress then were. Several of the farmers and handicraftsmen had then clocks in their houses, and many of the young men wore watches. Now, the rarity would be to find a house without a clock, and a young man without a watch. Then, there were 3000 arable acres in the parish; now, the number is 5000. Then, the rents amounted to less than L.3000; now, these amount to about upwards of L.8000, exclusive of land in the hands of proprietors. Then, the fields, whether in crop or in pasture, were generally open; now, there is hardly an arable field that is not inclosed. Then, the people were praised for their aversion to litigations: now, no dispute can be adjusted out of the legal courts. But why pursue the parallel? Since the result of such comparisons is ever the same, indicating a regular progression in physical and economical amelioration, with the drawback of a too certain retrogression from the blessings of contentment and simplicity.

November 1842.