

PARISH OF MADDERTY.

PRESBYTERY OF AUCHTERARDER, SYNOD OF PERTH AND
STIRLING.

THE REV. WILLIAM STODDART, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Situation.—THIS parish is situated on the western boundaries of the parishes of Gask and Trinity-Gask, and on the eastern of Crieff. It has Fowlis on the north, and part of Trinity-Gask on the south. The climate is rather wet and cold.

Hydrography.—The only water or rivulet worth notice in the parish is the Pow, which, for a long way, is confined in a canal or cut dug to straighten its course nearly a century ago. This cut is about 24 feet in width, and 6 in depth. The Pow rises from the red moss about a mile eastward of the parish; one part runs eastward, and empties itself into the river Almond, and the other part runs westward, and empties itself into the Erne at Innerpefray. The descent of the part that runs westward is so very gradual, that the water appears generally stagnant. The lands adjacent are low and flat; which, with other circumstances, exposes them to frequent inundations. This would certainly have a tendency to enrich and fertilize the lands, could these floodings be kept under control. Embankments and sluices may to a very considerable extent, but cannot altogether, prevent the damage sustained by these floodings. At present, from the want of sufficiently high embankments, a very heavy loss is frequently sustained.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Parochial Registers.—The register of baptisms commences 25th July 1709; the kirk-session minutes commence in February 1701; the register of collections, 1741; the minutes of the meeting of heritors, 1796.

Land-owners.—These are, Lady Preston Baird of Fern Tower, valued rent, L.1191, 15s. 2d.; Major Moray of Abercairney, L.508, 15s.; W. L. Campbell, Esq. of Williamstone, L.274, 8s.

10d.; Alexander Anderson Henry, Esq. of Woodend and South Ardberry, L.796, 16s. 4d.; Anthony Murray, Esq. of Dollerie, L.211; Lord Lyndoch of Balgowan, L.164, 2s. 8d.; Rev. A. Maxtone, Fowlis, North Ardberry, L.193, 6s. 8d., and Redford, L.45, 6s. 8d.; Miss Rattray, Dubheads, L.146, 10s. 4d.

Mansion-Houses.—The only mansion-houses in the parish are those of Dollerie and Woodend.

Antiquities—Abbey of Incheffray.—This religious house was founded in the year 1200 by Gilbert Earl of Strathearn, and his Countess Matilda. It was dedicated to the honour of God, the Virgin Mary, and John the Apostle and Evangelist. The site of this famous abbey is on a small rising ground, which seems, from its situation and name, to have once been an island surrounded by the water of the Pow. In Latin, it is denominated *Insula Missarum*, which is said to be a literal translation of its common name, Inch-efray, for Inch-peffray, the Island of Masses, or the island where mass is said. It was endowed with many privileges and immunities by David and Alexander, Kings of Scotland. The edifices of this abbey, which were once extensive, are now in ruins, and have, on several occasions, supplied abundance of stones for building houses and making roads in the neighbourhood. The few remains of this ancient abbey, with six or seven acres of land in the immediate vicinity, belong to the Earl of Kinnoul, who, in consequence of this comparatively small possession, is patron of about twelve parishes that formerly were attached to the abbey. Mauritius, abbot of this place, was present with Robert the Bruce at the battle of Bannockburn, and is reported to have had brought along with him the arm of St Fillan. This relic might, indeed, have given some encouragement to the superstitious; but one arm of a brave Scotsman, fighting in earnest for the liberty of his country, had more effect in obtaining that memorable victory than could have been produced by the innate virtue of all the relics of the dead that could have been collected. “James Drummond, a younger son of David Lord Drummond, and his lady, a daughter of William Lord Ruthven, was first styled Lord Inchafry, being Commendator of that Abbacy, and afterwards created Lord Madderty by King James VI. in the year 1607. He married Jean, daughter to Sir James Chisholme of Cromlicks, and with her got the lands of Innerpefry, which were her mother’s portion, being heiress of Sir John Drummond of Innerpefry. He had, by his said lady, two sons, John Lord Madderty, and Sir James, the

first Laird of Machony."—*Nisbet's Heraldry*, Vol. i. (Old Account.)

III.—POPULATION.

Amount of population in 1801,	650
1811,	702
1821,	714
1831,	718
1841,	634
Population of the village of St David's, Billyelone,	80 44

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—

Number of acres in the parish cultivated,	2820
never cultivated,	160
under plantation, about	450

Rent.—Average rent per acre, about L.1, 12s.; valued rent of the parish, L.3472, 1s. 8d.; real rental of the parish, about L.4600.

Draining is the most important agricultural improvement, which of late years has been carried on to a considerable extent in the parish.

Agriculture is in as high a state of improvement as in the neighbouring parishes. The farms are in general of moderate size.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

A turnpike road now runs through the parish, and the parochial roads are in tolerably good condition.

The village of Craig may now be said to be almost extinct, and in its place is substituted the new and thriving village of St David's, consisting of about thirteen or fourteen feus. At the village of St David's, there has also been erected, within the last seven years, by Lady Preston Baird, an elegant and commodious school and school-house, both highly ornamental and useful. The school was principally designed by her Ladyship for sewing and knitting, and children there also receive the first rudiments of education before they are able to attend the parochial school. The female teacher has from her Ladyship an annual salary of L.10, free house, and several other perquisites. This, if properly conducted, will be a most useful and efficient institution. The estate of Craig of Maderty, upon which St David's is built, the property of Lady Preston Baird, enjoys the peculiar privilege and advantage of having been erected, in 1626, into a free burgh of barony, by the late Lord John Maderty, in virtue of a charter under the Great Seal, which was ratified and confirmed in the Scottish Parliament.

By that charter, the privileges are extensive. It is declared thereby, that the said burgh shall have the haill privileges, commodities, and immunities of a free burgh of barony; it also gives special power to the proprietrix for choosing, constituting and creating bailies, burgesses, officers, sergeants, and haill other officers necessary within the burgh for the government thereof, and the said bailies and other officers are thereby authorized to elect yearly and empower as to them shall seem expedient, with full and special power also to the burgesses of the said burgh, present and to come, to peck and peat, and to buy and sell wine, wax, linen, and woollen cloths, broad and narrow, and all other merchandise and staple goods, and to have a weekly market every Friday, with four free fairs yearly. There have been, of late, courts held occasionally at the village of St David's, within the barony, for settling disputes which may arise in the barony, and also for the internal peace and good government thereof.

Ecclesiastical State.—100 families belong to the Established Church, and there are 13 or 14 Dissenting families.

The stipend is 15 chalders, payable half in meal and half in barley.

The extent of the glebe is about nine acres, value about L.13 or L.14. The manse is at present in a tolerably good state of repair.

Education.—There are two schools in the parish, and also a school for sewing and knitting, under the superintendence of a female. The parochial teacher's salary is the maximum. Probable amount of fees paid to parochial teacher, from L.10 to L.12. The parochial teacher holds the situation of session-clerk, for which he receives a salary of L.3; and other perquisites therewith connected may amount to L.3.

Savings' Bank.—There is a savings' bank in the parish. For the last three years, the average sum deposited was L.43; sum withdrawn, L.90.

Poor.—Average number receiving parochial aid, from 10 to 12. The average annual amount of contributions for their relief from L.40 to L.50; whereof, from church collections, L.10; from voluntary assessment, L.30; legacies, L.3 or L.4.

November 1842.