

UNITED PARISHES OF ST MARTINS AND CAMBUSMICHAEL.

PRESBYTERY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.

THE REV. WILLIAM RITCHIE, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Extent, &c.—THESE two parishes were united about 150 years ago, and took their names from the saints to whom they were dedicated. The united parish extends from the banks of the Tay about 5 miles to the east, forming an oblong square, averaging nearly two miles in breadth. The soil in general is a black mould, with a till bottom, and seems originally to have been taken from moor, but is now mostly all cultivated. Limestone is also found, though not used to any great extent.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Parochial Registers.—The registers commence in 1712. Till about 1820, matters of church discipline, cash transactions, births, and marriages were all huddled into one book; but since that period, there has been a distinct and accurate register of each kept.

Land-owners, with their respective valuations in Scots money.—

William Farquharson Macdonald, Esq. of St Martins,	L.1852	14	8
The Earl of Mansfield,	728	14	8
Guildry Incorporation of Perth,	248	10	0
P. M. Matthew, Esq. of Newmill,	207	3	0
Mrs Drummond Nairne of Gardrum,	121	13	4
Andrew Couper, Esq. of Auchmague,	90	0	0
Colonel Steele of Evelick,	20	0	0

Total, - - - L.3268 15 8

Antiquities.—Under this head fall to be noticed the remains of Macbeth's Castle at Cairnbeddie, (*Caer Bed* or *Caer Beth*, the *Castle of Macbeth*). It is still known by this name among the people of the country. The ground on which the castle stood is considerably elevated, being a circular spot of about 230 feet in diameter, and surrounded by a moat 30 feet in breadth. Tradition has handed down, that this place, not being secure against the

many insurrections of the times, Macbeth removed to the celebrated Hill of Dunsinnan; that by the advice of two witches, the most celebrated at that time in the kingdom, and living one on each side of Macbeth, he fortified the castle on Dunsinnan Hill; that they met him one night at a place still called "the witch stane" (where a remarkable stone still stands), about a mile from his old residence, and warned him to beware "Till Birnam forest come to Dunsinane." About twenty-four years ago, a great quantity of earth was removed from one side of the mound, and horse shoes, apparently like those of ponies, were found in great abundance; likewise handles of swords and dirks.

III.—POPULATION.

Amount of population in 1801,	-	1136
1811,	-	1076
1821,	-	1004
1831,	-	1135
1841,	-	1071

Number of illegitimate births in the parish within the last three years, 6.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—

Number of acres, standard imperial measure, in the parish, which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, about 14,900
 Number of acres under wood, whether natural or planted, about 1,100

Average rent of land per acre, L.2.

Much has been done in draining and fencing of late years. An Agricultural Association has likewise been formed.

Manufactures.—A coarse linen manufacture is carried on, in which about 30 hands are employed.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Ecclesiastical State.—A handsome new church has just been erected, capable of containing more sitters than the law requires, though not yet open for public worship.

Number of families in the parish belonging to the Established Church, 210; Dissenting or Seceding families, 20; Episcopalian families, 1; Roman Catholic families, 2.

The stipend averages from L.180 to L.200 Sterling. The teind, however, is not all exhausted, and it is upwards of twenty years since an augmentation. There are two glebes,—one seven acres, the other, four and a half, worth about L.2, 10s. per annum. The manse was built in 1791, and thoroughly repaired in 1837. It is commodious and comfortable.

Education.—There are two schools in the parish, both efficient—

ly taught. The parochial teacher has received a classical education, and is so highly esteemed that young men often come to him from other parishes to finish their education. The salary is the maximum. He receives about L.24 Sterling from school fees, and about L.6 from other sources. With regard to the other school, there are no emoluments but the school fees, which are very small, and the ground for school and school-house, furnished by the Guildry Incorporation of Perth. There are likewise two Sabbath schools in the parish; one taught by the minister, for young persons, fourteen years or upwards, the other for young children.

Savings Bank.—There is a Savings bank in the parish, which is a branch of the Perth Savings Bank. It was recently established.

Poor.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 19; and the average sum allotted to each of such persons is about 1s. 6d. per week, or L.3, 18s. per year, exclusive of house-rents, coals, clothing, &c. The average annual amount of contributions for relief of the poor is about L.99, 17s. 3d. Sterling; viz. from church collections about L.51, 15s. 3d.; from voluntary contributions of heritors, L.20; from alms or legacies, &c. L.4, 2s.; and from interest of L.600, L.24.

December 1842.

UNITED PARISHES OF ABERDALGIE AND DUPPLIN.

PRESBYTERY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.

THE REV. C. C. STEWART, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—The Old Statistical Account states that the parishes of Aberdalgie and Dupplin were united into one parish in the year 1618. In the times of Episcopacy, the parish of Aberdalgie seems to have been included within the diocese of Dunkeld, while that of Dupplin belonged to the diocese of Dunblane. Indeed the church of Dupplin seems only to have been a family chapel,