

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,

attached to the Castle "de Dupline" for the benefit of its possessors.

Extent, &c.—The extent of the parish, from east to west, is about 3 miles; and from north to south, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. It is compact, situated upon the rising ground which forms the northern boundary of the beautiful vale of Strathearn, while the view is limited to the south by the Ochil Hills. The Earn forms the southern boundary of the parish, separating it from the parishes of Forgandenny and Forteviot. This high land range slopes gradually again to the north, overlooking the rich and wide-spread valleys of the Almond, the Tay, and Strathmore; while the noble range of the Grampians in the distance, with their towering summits, forms a splendid boundary to this panoramic scene. On the north-east, the parish is joined by the landward part of the East Church parish of Perth; and on the south-east, by a portion of the parish of Forteviot; on the north, it is bounded by the parish of Tibbermuir; and on the west, by that of Forteviot.

The Earn is remarkable for its beautiful windings through the Strath, especially from the bridge of Forteviot to the Bridge of Earn. The various elegant seats of noblemen and gentlemen on the declivities, and the substantial farm-houses and offices, all ornamented with much fine wood, form a scene which strikes the eye of every traveller with delight. The river is subject to great inundations. It is famous for salmon and a variety of fresh-water trouts, which are caught by the net or in cruives.

Geology.—The prevailing stratum of this parish, along with tracts of the surrounding country, is sandstone of the older formation. There are several quarries in the parish, the finest of which is at the Milton. Of this stone the present manse has been built.

Plantations.—In no part of the country is finer wood to be seen and of greater variety than around Dupplin Castle. The sweet and horse chestnuts are of great age. Black spruce of the greatest dimensions, with quantities of beech, and the fine old Scots fir, with its massive gnarled arms of great size, adorn the avenues leading to the castle. Larger solitary trees may be found in other places; but it is generally acknowledged that few seats in Scotland are surrounded by such an extent and variety of large and valuable wood as Dupplin Castle. The old plantations extend to about 200 Scots acres, and the present Earl has planted about 150.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The oldest session record is of date February 14, 1613, and is

preserved with singular regularity, and but few omissions, down to 1656. This manuscript, if deciphered, might prove interesting. The records disclose a lamentable picture of the state of the country during Cromwell's usurpation. Mr Playfair was superannuated during the keen debates between the Resolutions and Protesters, and incapable of taking an active part in these troublous times. After many difficulties, Mr Francis Hay, Laird of Balhousie, and sole heritor of Aberdalgie and Dupplin, granted a competent stipend for a colleague and assistant to Mr Playfair, when, in the end of the year 1656, a call was moderated in favour of Mr George Halyburton, who was ordained in August 1657. Mr Playfair died about 1658, when Mr George Halyburton, (named Junior to distinguish him from his cousin, minister of Perth, and who afterwards, conforming, became Bishop of Dunkeld in 1662, and died in 1664,) became sole minister till 1662, when he was ejected and deposed, along with five other ministers of the Presbytery of Perth, and about 300 ministers of the Church, for nonconformity. He married Margaret Playfair, daughter of the Rev. Andrew Playfair, his predecessor. These were the parents of the eminent and pious Thomas Halyburton, who was born in Dupplin in 1674, and afterwards minister of Ceres, and Professor of Divinity in St Andrews, in 1710, and who died at the early age of thirty-eight years.

Upon Mr George Halyburton's ejection, in 1662, Mr George Hay, Laird of Balhousie, Aberdalgie, and Dupplin, a gentleman of exemplary piety, and a great sufferer for nonconformity, provided him with a house and refuge near Dupplin, where Mr Halyburton dwelt with his family in great privacy, till his death in 1682.

During the prevalence of Prelacy, succeeded, 23d August 1663, Mungo Weemys, son of David Weemys, the conforming minister of Scone. About 1675, succeeded David Lauder; and, February 19th 1679, John Hardie, who was early deprived of his office after the Revolution.

After the Revolution, in 1688, David Shaw was ordained 23d September 1691, at which period the kirk-session records are resumed, after a blank of thirty-five years, and are continued with great regularity till about the time of Mr Shaw's translation to Auchterarder, which took place in October 1718. Mr Shaw was succeeded by Mr James Mercer of Clavage, well known as the bitter opponent and accuser of Ebenezer Erskine of Stirling for his synod sermon, delivered at Perth in October 1732, which

proved the origin of the great secession from the Church of Scotland. He was translated from Forteviot to Aberdalgie 31st December 1718.

From 1717 to 1736 the volume of the kirk-session records has either been lost or destroyed.

Mr Thomas Rankine, who was ordained minister of Kinnoull in 1733, was translated to Aberdalgie in November 1745, and died in 1781; when Mr William Garvie succeeded him on January 10, 1782. Mr Garvie was translated from West Calder, and died in 1831, at an advanced age; when he was succeeded by the present incumbent, Mr Charles C. Stewart, on March 15, 1832.

Dupplin Castle.—The castle mentioned in the last Statistical Account was burned to the ground by accident on the 11th September 1827, and in the course of five years afterwards, a new and very handsome edifice was erected on the same site by the present Thomas Robert Drummond Hay, Earl of Kinnoull, under the auspices of Mr Burn of Edinburgh, after the Elizabethan style of architecture, at a sum exceeding L.30,000. The greater part of the valuable library and paintings were fortunately preserved from the conflagration, though some valuable manuscripts of historical interest were unfortunately destroyed.

The Lords Oliphant of Bachilton were for centuries the feudal lords of Aberdalgie. A full account of this ancient family is given in Douglas's and Crawford's Peerage.

III.—POPULATION.

At every decade since the beginning of the century the population has been decreasing.

Amount of population in 1801,	.	542
1811,	.	513
1821,	.	490
1831,	.	434
1841,	.	360

The principal causes of the decrease seem to be the throwing of small farms into larger ones, and the decay or destruction of cottars' houses, while fewer are erected than those which were destroyed. The farmers consequently complain of want of labourers, especially during the spring and harvest, when they find it requisite to send to the town of Perth for labourers.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—This parish is not behind the rest of the district in its agricultural improvements. The most essential of these has certainly been the system of wedge-draining, now so generally

adopted, which, from its instant effects in drying wet and tilly lands and cold subsoils, speedily repays the tenant for his labour and expense. The introduction of turnip husbandry has likewise proved very beneficial both to the tenantry and to the lands, and has been the means of introducing not a little sheep-husbandry, especially during the winter season. Potatoes, which have become of late years a valuable article of export from Strathearn, have been much grown in this district, and have much improved the lands, owing to the facilities thereby given to the obtaining of foreign manure, great quantities of which are driven to this parish from Perth.

Wheat is much cultivated in the south part of the parish, where the land is of a rich loam and clay, and where it is well exposed to the genial influence of the sun; but in the northern district, which is much exposed to the north winds, and a cold tilly soil, oats, barley, pease, and beans form the only corn crops.

The valued rent of the parish of Aberdalgie and Dupplin is about L.3000 Scots. The average rental of the last seven years, L.3200 Sterling.

The parish consists of six large farms, containing from 156 to 280 Scots arable acres, exclusive of pasture, and three smaller ones varying in extent.

The number of arable acres may amount to 2500, and there are about 50 acres incapable of cultivation, and lying waste. The total number of Scots acres in the parish is about 2900.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—The road from Perth to Stirling passes through the parish for nearly three miles. Lord Kinnoull advanced L.3000 for the commencement of this road. It was finished in the year 1811, and has proved an unspeakable benefit both to the commercial and agricultural interests of this part of the country. Many excellent farm-houses have been built along its line, and the facilities afforded for the conveyance of lime and other manures, as well as for the export of the produce, have greatly increased the productiveness and value of farms which formerly boasted but of little arable land. The old road passes likewise through the parish upon its northern declivity; but a far better line has been adopted for the new one in the plain below.

Ecclesiastical State.—The present church of Aberdalgie was built in the year 1773, and a vault was constructed beneath the church for the burying-place of the noble family of Kinnoull.

The ancient burying-place, however, is at the church of Kinnoull, where a monument was erected in 1635 to the memory of Sir George Hay, Lord Chancellor of Scotland, and the first Earl of Kinnoull, who died in 1634.

The church stands in need of considerable repair, but might be easily rendered very comfortable. It is a pretty object, adorned with abundance of the creeping ivy, and surrounded by sycamores of exceeding beauty, rendering the burying-ground attached to it sheltered and retired, an emblem of the peace and repose which reigns in the graves beneath, "where the weary are at rest."

The foundations of the old church of Dupplin remain within the small enclosed burying-ground, situated at a beautiful bend of the river, while a little above it, on an eminence, stands the Castle of Dupplin. Until the death of the late incumbent in 1831, the manse and glebe were contiguous to this old churchyard; but in 1832, upon the induction of the present incumbent, an excambion of the glebe lands was made, and they are now situated close to the parish church.

In 1833, a new manse and offices were built by the Earl of Kinnoull, from a plan furnished by Mr Burn of Edinburgh, which is regarded, almost without exception, as the best and most commodious manse within the bounds of the presbytery. The new glebe, including the site of manse and offices with the garden, is about 14 acres in extent, and may be valued at L.1, 10s. per acre. The stipend is L.92, 17s. in money, 4 bolls, 1 firiot, 3 lippies of barley, and 9 bolls, 1 firiot, 3½ lippies of meal, which, at the average fiar prices for the last seven years, would be L.12, 3s., making the stipend amount to the value of L.105. An annual grant is made by the Exchequer of L.53, 14s. 8d., which includes in it an allowance of L.8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. The Earl of Kinnoull is sole heritor of the parish, and is vice-patron of the living with the Crown.

In the "Rotuli Scotiæ," preserved in the Tower of London, and ordered to be printed by George III., mention is made of one "Adam Parson (curate) of Dippling and vicar of Perth." This is the earliest ecclesiastic whose name has been met with as connected with this parish. This document is dated Berwick, 2d September 1296. The name of Sir John Myrton, canon of the cathedral of Dunkeld, and prebendary of Forgandenny, and rector of the parish church of Dupplin, occurs as witness to a

charter, dated 31st December 1489, of the Carthusian convents and priory of Perth. He died 2d August 1507.

After the Reformation in 1560, the paucity of ordained ministers was so great, as to render it expedient to unite many parishes under the care of one ordained minister, and to supply the deficiency by readers *pro tempore*.

Agreeably to this arrangement it appears, from "the Register of Assignations for the ministers' stipend for the year 1574," preserved in the Advocates' Library in Edinburgh, that the following parishes were united in one cure for the time:—Tibbermuir, Dupplin, Aberdalgie, and Pitcairne; Alexander Young, minister. Aberdalgie and Dupplin, William Melrose, minister, William Gibson, reidar, 1569. Robert Symsonn, reidar at Dupplin; John Moir, reidar at Aberdalgie. These were probably the very first persons settled here after the Reformation. The presbytery or session records supply us with no information of an earlier date than February 14th 1613, when Mr Andrew Playfair was ordained here under the forms of Episcopacy, which the year before had been re-established by James VI.

Education.—The present school-house and schoolmaster's residence were built in 1826. The schoolmaster's house affords little more than the legal accommodation; but both it and the school-room are well finished. The salary is the maximum, L.34, 4s. 4½d.; amount of fees, about L.10; and other emoluments, about L.3, 10s., with the legal quantity of garden ground.

Poor.—The number of persons receiving parochial aid is 12. The church collections are quite inadequate for their maintenance; but the present Earl of Kinnoull has proved as kind and benevolent a friend to the poor of the parish as any of his Lordship's Noble predecessors. His Lordship makes up whatever sum is found necessary for their comfortable subsistence; and it is but justice to state, that in few parishes are the wants of the poor so amply supplied.

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