

## PARISH OF ARNGASK.

PRESBYTERY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.

THE REV. ALEXANDER BURT, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—ARNGASK, sometimes erroneously written Arngosk, is the ancient as well as modern name of this parish. It has been supposed to be compounded of the Gaelic words, *Ard-nan-gaisg*, *the hill or height of heroism*. Though we are unable to point to any authentic account of a battle having been fought, or to the performance of any extraordinary feat of valour, to entitle the locality to be regarded as a scene of bravery, yet it is not improbable that Cairn Geddes, referred to under a subsequent head, may be connected with some event which would justify the application of the name.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The parish extends about four miles from east to west, and nearly three from south to north. Its superficial extent forms an area of fully  $9\frac{1}{2}$  square miles. Its figure is somewhat of a circular form. But the boundary line is irregular, in consequence of slight indentations produced by some of the contiguous parishes. It is bounded on the east, by the parish of Abernethy; on the south and south-east, by the parishes of Orwell and Strathmiglo; on the west, by those of Forteviot and Forgandenny; and on the north, by that of Dron.

The climate is on the whole favourable both for vegetation and health. There is no distemper peculiar to the parish.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The counties of Perth, Fife, and Kinross meet at Damhead, and the parish is almost equally situated in these counties. It embraces a portion of the Ochil Hills, which stretch from the Forth, in the north-east of Stirlingshire, to the immediate vicinity of Ferry-Port-on-Craig, on the southern bank of the Tay, and may therefore, in its general aspect, be denominated hilly, consisting, as it were, of a combina-

tion of gentle rounded waved-like elevations, varying in height from 600 to 800 feet above the level of the sea. The grounds, particularly of Conland, Newfargie, Letham, Paris, and Duncrivie are laid out in a tasteful manner, substantially enclosed, and embellished with wood. The general appearance of the parish is pleasing and varied, and the views from many parts of it are singularly beautiful and extensive. The prospect from Cairn Geddes, a part of the lands of Fordel, is particularly splendid, comprehending the Frith of Tay, Carse of Gowrie, the Sidlaws, terminating in Moncrieff and Kinnoull hills, the upper part of Strathearn, and a considerable portion of the Grampian range.

*Hydrography.*—The parish abounds with springs, which afford, at all seasons, a copious supply of excellent water. These springs, owing to the general structure or undulating form of the parish, give rise to numerous rivulets, most of which are tributaries to the Farg,—a small stream which rises near the western extremity of the parish, and, for upwards of a mile, separates it from that of Forgandenny. It then flows through the parish, separating, till it reaches Damhead, the county of Kinross from that of Perth. Then it begins to separate the county of Perth from that of Fife, and continues to form the boundary between these counties till it arrives at the point where it leaves the parish, about the middle of the romantic and beautifully wooded glen to which it communicates its name, and which travellers so much admire. The Farg abounds with trout, and is much frequented by the angler.

*Geology, &c.*—The parish does not present any thing of much interest, considered in a geological point of view. It is composed of trap rocks, and, from certain appearances, it is not improbable that these are of igneous or volcanic origin. The most remarkable vein traverses the parish from east to west: it is composed of greenstone, which, as it passes through the lands of Pittillock, Arngask, and Hilton, is of a compact and fine texture, and of a dark hue, in consequence of containing a great proportion of augite; but, in passing through the lands of Blair and Plains, while the rock is equally compact, it is of a coarser grain, consisting of felspar and hornblende, and, when broken, it presents a rough crystallized aspect. Instances of porphyritic rock are to be seen upon the lands of Fordel; and beds of amygdaloid, frequently coarse and tuffaceous, are found in several parts of the parish, and,

in the vesicular cavities by which this kind of structure is characterized, we find beautiful specimens of agate, calcareous spar, and zeolite.

*Soil.*—The soil, of which there exists a considerable diversity, is principally formed from the decomposition of the trap or whinstone rocks. In general, it is of a black loamy character; and though some fields are light and shallow, yet many others are comparatively rich, and capable of yielding abundant crops. There is not much of it of a gravelly description; but, among the waste or uncultivated land, there is a considerable extent of moorish or heathy soil.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Notices regarding the Parish.*—In the chartulary of Cambuskenneth, preserved in the Advocates' Library, are contained several charters relating to the church of Arngask, and certain lands in the parish. From this source, we learn that, in 1281, Gilbertus Frislay, dominus de Forgey, gave to God and to the monastery of Cambuskenneth the patronage of the church of Arngask, with the piece of land which lies near the house of the priest "in territorio de Arngosk." Soon afterwards, this grant was confirmed by William, Bishop of St Andrews, with the whole revenues "paupertati dicti monasterii compacientes." We next find a charter of resignation, in 1282, by Radolphus, dominus de Symmersdburn, rector of the church of Arngask. Then appears a document styled "Institutio ejusdem ecclesiæ," &c. and this deed was followed, in the same year, by a confirmation, by the chapter of St Andrews and John, the Prior of the cathedral, of the church and church lands of Arngask. Henricus de Frislay, dominus de Forgey, in 1295, made a grant of the mill of Arngask, with two acres of land near it, to the abbey of Cambuskenneth, "pro salute animæ suæ." Sir William Frislay, miles, dominus de Forgey, confirmed the deed of his predecessor, which is ratified by a charter under the Great Seal of King Robert at Glasgow in 1325. The Frislays, it appears, possessed the barony of Arngask "et dominium de Forgey" till about 1332, when the heiress of that name married Sir Richard Barclay of Kippo. Hugh Barclay, laird of Kippo and Arngask, by a charter to the Blackfriars of Perth, dated at Perth 18th September 1389, "granted to them," according to the superstition of those times, "for the salvation of his own soul and the souls of his predecessors and successors, in pure and per-

petual alms, to God, the blessed Mary, and the Predicant Friars of Perth, ten shillings Sterling out of his lands of Arngask, to be paid in equal proportions at two terms of the year, viz. five at the feast of Pentecost, and other five at the feast of the blessed Martin in winter, for the sustenance of one burning lamp in the choir of the foresaid friars, from year to year for ever," &c. (29th charter in the chartulary of the Blackfriars of Perth.) The Barclays continued in possession of the baronies of Kippo, Arngask, &c., till the reign of James IV., when James Barclay of Kippo died without male issue, and was succeeded by his daughter, Margaret, as his sole heiress. This lady was married, about 1491, to Sir Andrew Murray, second son of Sir W. Murray of Tullibardine, and, on the 24th January 1507, she resigned, in the hands of King James, her whole estate for new infeftment to herself and her husband, Sir A. Murray of Balvaird, in liferent, and the fee to their offspring. The said lady, with consent of her husband, and Sir David Murray, their son and heir, founded a chaplainry in the parish church of Arngask, and endowed it with an annuity of 14 merks and two acres of land, lying contiguous to the church, for the prosperity of their sovereign James V., and for the health and welfare of themselves, their heirs, and successors, "*et omnium fidelium defunctorum.*" The deed of mortification is dated at the Castle of Balvaird in 1527, and the name of one of the witnesses is John Bullerwale, curate of the said church of Arngask.

By an act of Parliament, in 1606, the abbacy of Cambuskenneth, with which Arngask, and many other kirks had been connected for several centuries, was erected into a temporal lordship in favour of John Erskine, Earl of Mar. These churches were hereby disunited and dissolved from the said Abbacy, and the Kirklands were comprehended within the newly created lordship of Cardrois, or lordship of Cambuskenneth, as it is styled in charters held by proprietors of church lands within this parish. The act provides that the foresaid parsonages and vicarages "shall be provydit and plantit with qualesfeit, godlie, and learnit persons, apt and hable to instruct the parohineris thairof, in the knawin veritie. For which purpose the advocacion, donation, and full right and titill of all sundrie the foresaid kirks are given, granted, and disposed to the foresaid Lord John, Earl of Mar," &c. This important act re-enacts and declares the parish church of Arngask and the others named with it, to be, in all time coming, the legal

parish kirks of their respective localities, as they had formerly been so before the Reformation. \*

The parish must have been originally small. But it was considerably enlarged by a decree dated 25th November 1642, disjoining Clashjeuglie, Glendymilo, Blair, Plains, and the lands of Easter and Wester Fordell with their pertinents, from the parish of Forgandenny, and annexing them to the parish of Arngask in all time coming. And on 28th July 1669, it received a further enlargement, and attained its present magnitude. On that occasion, as we learn from Connell on the Law of Parishes, "the minister, of Arngask obtained a decree disjoining the lands of Hiltown and Grainmore" (Carmore) "from the parishes of Orwell and Strathmiglo, and annexing them to Arngask, as being much nearer thereto, MS. D." We have not had an opportunity of examining the authority to which Sir J. C. refers; but while Hiltown is unquestionably in this parish, Carmore is still considered as belonging to Strathmiglo.

*Ministers of the Parish.*—Soon after the Reformation, when there was a great scarcity of Reformed ministers, John Pittblado, as we learn from the register of ministers, exhorters, and readers, and of their stipends, sen the yeir of God 1567, (which was printed for the Maitland Club in 1830,) was reidar at Arngask about the year 1569, with xvi. li., i. e. L.16 Scots of stipend. And Alexander Wardlaw, as we find from the register of assignations for the ministers' stipends, for 1574, (an ancient MS. in the Advocates' Library,) officiated here in the same capacity. It appears from the Presbytery record that the parish was for a considerable time under the pastoral superintendence of the ministers of Strathmiglo. 1. Mr George Moncrieff, son of Mr Archibald Moncrieff, minister of Abernethy, was the first Protestant minister of Arngask. From a minute of Presbytery, August 14, 1633, we find that a letter from his relative, Mr Andrew Murray, minister of Abdie, was produced in favour of Mr Moncrieff, "desiring the brethren to license the said Mr George to preach at Arngask kirk, till the said kirk be provided and planted. The brethren having considered the same, gave license to the said Mr George, till the first day of November, and no further, lest, under pretext of his serving the cure, the plantation thereof be hindered." He was appointed the minister of the parish in October 1635, and continued in the discharge of his pas-

\* Scots Acts of Parliament, Vol. iv. p. 348.

toral duties for the period of nearly thirty years. He was one of the sixteen ministers of the Presbytery who, in 1662, conformed to Prelacy. It is stated in the Presbytery record, 1664, that in the Privy Censures, Mr George Moncrieff, minister of Arngask, was approven in life and doctrine." 2. Mr Robert Geddeis, in August 1665, became the Episcopal incumbent of Arngask, and, according to the Presbytery Record, "was unanimously accepted by the heritors thereof." But at the Revolution he was served with a libel by the Presbytery, and, as repeated acts of drunkenness were proved against him, was deposed from the ministry on the 8th October 1690. 3. Mr Gilbert Melville, who had been one of the field preachers under the persecution period, was appointed, 18th December 1688, to officiate as a Presbyterian minister at Arngask, though the Episcopal incumbent was neither deprived of his office by the Privy-Council, nor as yet deposed by the church. But not having been regularly called to the parish, and probably enjoying little or no remuneration for his services, he accepted a call to Glendevon, and was loosed from Arngask on the 2d of June 1694. 4. Mr John Dempster received a call from the parishioners of Arngask, 27th November 1694, and was ordained by the Presbytery, and legally admitted minister of the parish on the 27th February 1695. He was loosed from Arngask 13th March 1706, and transported to St Madois on the 27th of that month. 5. Mr James Gillespie had a call moderated to him, 17th December 1706. "All the heritors and elders voted and subscribed, *nemine contradicente*." Session record. He was ordained on the 21st of May 1707. The day of his death is not specified; but it appears from the session record, that he preached for the last time on the 23d November 1729, and was buried on the 8th of the following month. 6. Mr John Johnston was ordained 10th March 1731, and died on the 28th of December 1746. The Rev. Dr David Johnston, who was long the minister of North Leith, and much distinguished for his Christian worth, was his second son. 7. Mr Andrew Williamson was ordained on the 3d November 1747, and continued to be the minister of the parish for thirty-five years. He was transported to Auchtergaven in December 1782. 8. Mr William Lang, who had for several years previously assisted Sir Robert Preston, one of the ministers of Cupar, received a unanimous call to be minister of Arngask on the 26th of June, and was ordained on the 18th

September 1783. He died on the 10th of January 1827. 9. The present incumbent, a native of the parish, was ordained assistant and successor to Mr Lang, 14th October 1819.

*Parochial Registers.*—These consist of several volumes, and, upon the whole, have been regularly kept. They extend back to 1688, and the date of their earliest entry is the 18th December of that year.

*Land-owners.*—The heritors of the parish at present are 28 in number, and, with the exception of five of the non-resident, are proprietors of land of the yearly value of L.50 and upwards. The chief of these, in the order of their valued rents, are, W. Murray, Esq. of Conland; J. Hay, Esq. of Paris; A. Coventry, Esq. of Pittilock; Mrs Captain Wardlaw, and R. Low, Esq. of Fordels; J. Burt, Esq. portioner of part of Duncrivie and Deuglie; J. Whyte, Esq. of Arngask; Colonel G. Miller of Eastertown; Rev. A. Burt, of Wester Deuglie; Mrs Barclay, of Glendymill; J. Murray, Esq. of Forresterseat; W. Hay, Esq. of Haysmill; W. Henderson, Esq. of Blairstruie; C. G. Sidey, Esq. of Letham; J. Bogie, Esq. of Oldfargie; W. Simpson, Esq. of Hayfield, &c. Ten of the heritors are resident, and some of them farm their own lands.

*Antiquities.*—The parish scarcely affords any materials for the exercise of antiquarian skill. We may state, however, that on the farm of Newfargie, near the turnpike road which passes through Glenfarg, there is a large block of mica-slate weighing several tons, which, until a recent period, was so nicely balanced on a rock, that it moved by a slight pressure of the hand. This was long regarded as a singular curiosity; but the equilibrium, by some means unknown, has been completely destroyed. The stone must have reached its present position by human ingenuity; but in what way, or for what purpose, remains to be discovered.

We are equally incompetent to furnish a satisfactory account of the origin of Cairn Geddes, a small artificial mound in the north-west district of the parish. It was formerly covered with a considerable quantity of stones, but these have been recently removed for the purpose of filling drains. No account or tradition concerning this cairn has come down to us. It was partially opened in the centre some years ago, and a rude stone coffin was discovered about three feet from the surface. Had the work of excavation been more extensive, it would probably have led to

more important discoveries. As yet, however, nothing has been ascertained which can warrant us to affirm with precision, that under the cairn were deposited the ashes of a once renowned but now forgotten hero.

It may not be uninteresting to add, that in the church, which was demolished previous to the erection of the present edifice, there was a statue of rude workmanship, with the beads employed by Roman Catholics attached to the hands. This relic of antiquity lay for many years on the site of the former church; but, in consequence of directions given by the late Earl of Mansfield, it was at last removed to the Castle of Balvaird. This statue, it is supposed, was formed in honour of Margaret Barclay, spouse of Sir Andrew Murray of Balvaird, who, in 1527, as already stated, founded and endowed a chaplainry in the church of Arngask.

### III.—POPULATION.

When the census was taken by Dr Webster in 1755, the population amounted to 736, but in 1790, when the last Statistical Account was drawn up, it had decreased to 554. By the Parliamentary census of 1801, it was found to be 564, and by that of 1831 it amounted to 712. The Government census of 1841 represents the population at 750, of whom there are 380 males, and 370 females. By a minute numerical survey which the incumbent took in 1839, the total number of inhabitants was ascertained to be 724.

Of this last number, 267 were under 15 years of age.

148 were betwixt 15 and 30

179 . . . . . 30 and 50

106 . . . . . 50 and 70

24 . . . . . 70 and 90

The yearly number of proclamations, taking the average of the last 7 years, is	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
The yearly average number of interments,	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
The average number of births per annum,	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Number of bachelors and widowers above 50 years of age,	22
widows and unmarried women above 45 years of age,	40

From the number of baptisms registered, it is obvious that the population, during the first half of the last century, was fully as great as it is at present. The diminution which took place during the second half of the century appears to have been occasioned chiefly by the removal of cottages, and by converting, at least in one instance, several small pendicles or farms into one. Candy, during that period, consisted of four distinct farms, with an equal number of cottages, and thus afforded accommodation for eight fa-

milies; whereas, for the space of nearly half-a century, the only dwelling-house on the farm has been occupied exclusively by the tenant. Lustielaw, during the same period, exhibited the appearance of a village, and contained upwards of twenty families, many of whom, along with their cottages and gardens, rented small pendicles; but these cottages, with the exception of half-a dozen, which still remain, have long since been demolished. The increase which has taken place during the present century has been occasioned by the erection of houses along the side of the new turnpike road.

The people are in general intelligent, steady, sober, and industrious. The bothy system has, of late years, been partially introduced; but the effects which have hitherto resulted from its operation prevent us from bearing our testimony in its favour. The demoralizing practice of smuggling has, for a period of more than twenty years, been completely suppressed. Poaching in game, it is to be regretted, prevails to some extent.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—There are 6116 acres standard imperial measure in the parish. Of this number 4590 are arable, 1291 uncultivated, and 235 under wood, planted chiefly within the last thirty years.

*Rent and Leases.*—The valued rent, according to the cess-books of the three counties in which the parish is situated, is L. 2614, 4s. 4d. Scots. The real rent is about L. 5217 Sterling. Some of the lands being occupied by the proprietors themselves, can only be reported at an estimated value; but, from information collected by the writer, the above sum, it is believed, must be exceedingly near the present yearly rental. The average rent of the whole, exclusive of the portion under wood, is upwards of 17s. per imperial acre. A considerable portion of the arable land is let at L. 2; and some fields, when let for pasture during the season, occasionally bring L. 4 an acre. The average rent of the arable land per acre may be reckoned at L. 1, 1s. 9d.; whereas that of the permanent pasture, or uncultivated ground, does not exceed 3s. 5d. Leases are generally granted for nineteen years, but not a few are of shorter duration.

*Husbandry.*—A very considerable portion of the parish is, generally speaking, under a regular system of tillage, the rotation of crops varying to suit the different qualities of the soil. In the more fertile districts, the rotation is usually five or six years, viz.

oats, turnips, and potatoes, barley, grass-seeds cut in hay, followed by either one or two years' pasture. On those farms where the soil is of a more varied description, a rotation of eight or nine years is in many cases adopted, taking two successive crops of oats after three or four years' pasture. Turnip husbandry now prevails to a considerable extent, and appears to be admirably suited to a great part of the arable land. The cultivation of this valuable root has been, within the last few years, greatly extended, chiefly in consequence of the introduction of the use of bone manure, and the increased fertility of the soil occasioned by the turnip crop being eat off by sheep.

*Produce.*—The average value of the raw produce annually raised in the parish, as nearly as it can be ascertained, is as follows :

White crop, including wheat, oats, and barley,	L. 6432	0	0
Green crop, including pease, potatoes, and turnips,	3200	0	0
Hay, both meadow and cultivated,	720	0	0
Pasture of all kinds,	1824	0	0

Total annual value of raw produce,	L. 12,176	0	0
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*Mills, &c.*—There are 4 mills for grinding corn, 1 saw-mill, and 22 thrashing-mills. Of the latter, twenty are moved by horses, one by steam, and another by water. There are about 62 ploughs regularly employed upon the different farms; and, besides these, four or five are occasionally used by persons occupying small pen-dicles, and frequently acting in the capacity of carters. There are only 8 hand-loom, weaving being carried on to a small extent. In four shops, groceries are sold. And, besides some journeymen and apprentices, there are 4 masons, 7 carpenters, 3 smiths, 4 tailors, 3 shoemakers, and 1 plasterer.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication.*—The parish enjoys ample means of communication. It is traversed for upwards of three miles by the Great North Road from Edinburgh to Aberdeen, on which four public coaches, including the mail, regularly travel to the north and to the south. The Statute Labour roads are generally well kept, and are nearly ten miles in extent. The stone bridges, consisting each of a single arch, are in a proper state of repair. Four of these are across the Farg, six are over some of its tributaries, and one is upon a small stream which flows south from Damhead, and unites with the Eden at Burnside.

*Villages.*—There are two small villages in the parish, Duncrivié and Damhead. The former is pleasantly situated on rising

ground near its southern extremity, and contains 108 inhabitants. The latter, which is more central, stands in the vale through which the turnpike-road passes, and contains a population of 122. At this village a post-office, in connection with Kinross on the south and Bridge of Earn on the north, was established by the post-office authorities in January 1838. This arrangement, which was much needed, proves a great accommodation to the surrounding district.

*Market-Towns.*—The chief market-towns are Kinross and Perth, the former being seven and the latter ten miles distant from the centre of the parish. Newburgh, at which a stock-market is held every Tuesday, is principally frequented by the farmers, for the sale of agricultural produce; and Milnathort, at which only samples of grain are exhibited, is resorted to by some, on Wednesday, for a similar purpose.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church, which is situated on gently elevated ground, was built in 1806, and is a plain but substantial edifice. If the present turnpike-road had been formed previous to its erection, it would in all probability have been placed in the vicinity of Damhead; but as it occupies a central position, and only a few families are distant from it upwards of two miles, it is by no means inconveniently situated for the great mass of the population. It was found necessary, in 1821, on account of the increasing demand for church accommodation, to erect galleries, by which 140 additional sittings were obtained. The whole of the sittings in the church, amounting to 380, belong exclusively to the heritors, who in general gratuitously accommodate their tenants and other parishioners.

The manse, a substantial and commodious edifice, was built in 1828, and finished in 1829. The offices, which were erected at the same period, though equally substantial, are scarcely of sufficient extent. The glebe, including the site of the manse and offices, comprehends little more than the statutory allowance. But, in 1829, it was slightly augmented by Mrs Lang, a relative of the incumbent, who purchased upwards of an imperial acre of land contiguous to it, and, by a legal deed, secured the same to him and his successors in office. The whole, if let, would bring about L.9 per annum. The sum of L.20 Scots is paid, in lieu of a grass glebe, by the proprietors of the kirk-lands.

The stipend, including the allowance for communion elements, averages L.179. It consists of the whole teinds of the parish,

which amount to L.172, 8s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 5 bolls, 3 firlots, 1 $\frac{2}{3}$  lippies of meal, and 2 bolls, 2 pecks,  $\frac{2}{3}$  lippies of meal. Mrs Wardlaw and Robert Low, Esq. of Fordels are joint patrons.

There are 170 families in the parish, exclusive of a few bothies. Of these families, 149 belong to the Established Church; and 21, including 82 individuals of all ages, are chiefly connected with the United Secession Church. The number of male heads of families in communion with the church is 115; and the total number of communicants, taking the average of the last seven years, is 280. There is no other place of public worship but the parochial church; and the people, with few exceptions, are most regular in their attendance upon the stated services of religion.

There has been a parochial society in operation for upwards of twenty years, whose object has been to assist in disseminating the pure and unadulterated word of God. Since its formation in 1813, it has been connected with the Kinross-shire Bible Society, and contributed to the funds of that institution the sum of L.184, 5s. 3d. Occasional collections have been made in aid of the funds of the Scottish Missionary Society. And for many years we have had collections in behalf of the benevolent schemes which are sanctioned and recommended by the General Assembly. The average amount of annual contributions and church collections for religious and charitable objects is L.15.

*Education.*—The parish is amply supplied with the means of education, there being two schools in active operation within its limits, viz. the parochial school, which is situated near the church, and a school in the village of Duncrivie. The number of children attending each of these schools is nearly equal, and, when taken together, they are found to vary from a seventh to a sixth part of the population. It is to be regretted that the attendance of some at school is of very short duration. At the same time, there are none who do not obtain a share of education to the extent of being, in some measure, qualified for perusing the Sacred Scriptures.\* The branches of instruction generally taught in both schools are, reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and geography. Latin and Greek are also occasionally taught in

\* There is a striking contrast between the present state of education in the parish and that which existed in the seventeenth century. In the register of the presbytery of Perth, 28th March 1649, is inserted a list of the families within several of the parishes belonging to that presbytery, wherein some of the members could read. Arngask is one of the parishes there specified, and, at the period referred to, it was found to contain only sixteen families in which some of the members could read.

the parochial school. The teacher of the unendowed school has a free house, but is otherwise entirely dependent on the school fees. The parochial teacher's house affords little more than the legal accommodation. His salary is L.34, 4s. 4½d. ; but this sum is inclusive of an allowance for a garden. He receives from the heritors L.2 per annum, being interest of money in their hands, and mortified by a native of the parish, Robert Glass, late merchant in Perth, for the purpose of "being chiefly applied to the means of education of the young." In return for the above sum, and with the view of carrying into effect the intention of the benevolent donor, he teaches four children, who are annually selected by a committee of heritors, and whose parents may be in indigent circumstances, but are not receiving parochial aid. The total sum arising from school fees, if properly paid, may be stated as amounting to L.26. There has been a Sabbath evening school, for many years, in the village of Duncrivie. It is principally taught by one of the elders, and is generally well attended. There is a small library attached to it for the benefit of the children.

Ample as our means of education are, it is gratifying to add, that, through the munificence of John Glass, Esq. we have an immediate prospect of their extension. He has recently erected upon his property at Newton of Balcanquhal, in the locality which gave him birth, an excellent and commodious dwelling-house and school-room, and is at present adopting measures for obtaining a properly qualified teacher, to whom he intends to secure the handsome salary of L.50 per annum. The school was opened in October 1841, but the teacher's salary, it is understood, is now reduced to L.36 per annum.

*Library.*—A parochial library has been recently established, and is under the management of the kirk-session. It includes a variety of excellent publications, chiefly of a theological character, and has been formed by donations from a few of the heritors.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons regularly receiving parochial aid, exclusive of those who obtain occasional relief, is 10; and the monthly allowance granted to each varies, according to circumstances, from 5s. to 12s. The kirk-session, in several instances, also allow a quantity of coals, and pay the house rent of the pauper. They further defray the expense of educating the children of paupers, which, at an average, amounts to the sum of L.2 per annum.

The annual revenue at the disposal of the kirk-session, and

available for the maintenance of the poor, and the payment of the united salaries of the precentor, kirk-officer, presbytery and synod clerk, arises from the following sources; church-door collections, mortcloths, proclamations, and land. The yearly amount of church-door collections, taking the average of the last seven years, is L.7, 14s.; the average amount of mortcloth dues is L.1, 9s. 9d.; and that of proclamation dues is 10s. 3d. The sum of 2s. is only payable to the poor's fund when the bride belongs to the parish. The kirk-session purchased, in 1726, for the benefit of the poor, two small pendicles at Newton of Balcanquhal, for the sum of 2600 merks. And for a similar purpose another pendicle, quite contiguous to these, was purchased in 1838 by the present kirk-session for the sum of L.650 Sterling. These pendicles now form one small farm, which is let to an active and industrious tenant at an annual rent of L.61, 10s., from which, however, land-cess, feu-duty, and other sums constituting the public burdens, fall to be deducted. Besides the dwelling-house occupied by the farmer, there is another upon the property, which is at present let to two families; but the session intend to employ it ultimately in accommodating some of their paupers.

The parochial fund has attained its present state of prosperity, under the gratuitous and careful management of the kirk-session, and, if the sources of supply are not allowed to be dried up, it will continue adequate for ameliorating the condition of the poor, and warding off a legal assessment. For several years, however, the expenditure has fully equalled the income, owing to the expense incurred in effecting necessary improvements upon the property. It is proper to add, that, though there is occasionally shown little or no aversion to be put on the poor's roll, yet, in general, a considerable reluctance to accept parochial relief is still displayed.

*Fairs.*—There are four annual markets or fairs for the sale of cattle. One of these has been held at Lustielaw, from time immemorial, on the third Tuesday of May, O.S. The other three, established about twenty years ago, are held at Damhead, on the last Tuesday of April, O.S., first Thursday of August, and first Tuesday of October.

*Inns.*—There are four houses licensed to sell by retail, beer, ale, and other exciseable liquors. The number of houses of this description, though they are upon the whole well regulated, is far from producing beneficial effects. Two of them might be sup-

pressed with great advantage to the interests of morality. The other two, established at Damhead, along the line of the great north road, would prove amply sufficient for the accommodation both of parishioners and of the public.

*Fuel.*—At a former period, turf, furze, and peat were used to a considerable extent, but now coal is almost exclusively employed as fuel. It is generally conveyed from Kelty, at the distance of twelve miles from the centre of the parish; but it is also frequently brought from the collieries of Lumphannan and Lochgelly, a little farther off. It varies in price; at present it is sold at the pit mouth, at the rate of 3d. the cwt., 4s. 16 cwt. or four loads, which is the usual quantity put upon a single cart. A cart load, including carriage and tolls, costs in the parish, 9s. or 9s. 6d.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

During the last fifty years, a striking change has been effected in the general aspect of the country. New lines of communication have been opened up, and in many instances, districts which were once remarkable for bleakness and sterility, are now in a state of cultivation, or embellished with thriving plantations. The spirit of improvement has certainly reached the portion of the Ochils of which this parish is composed. All who knew it half a century ago, and remember its extensive tracks of furze and of heath,—its comparative want of roads and enclosures;—and now witness its well cultivated fields, substantial fences, excellent roads, and beautiful stripes and clumps of wood,—must be convinced that a decided change to the better has taken place. Of the various improvements which have been carried into effect, one of the most important is the formation of the new turnpike road which passes through the parish. The portion of this road which runs through Glenfarg to Damhead was executed between 1808 and 1810, but the part which extends from Damhead towards Milnathort was not completed until 1832. If, in addition to what we already possess, the proposed Western Fife Railway be ever executed, our means of communication may then be considered as most complete.

*Drawn up September 1841.*

*Revised December 1842.*