

social condition of the farmer, as compared with what it was thirty or forty years ago, is unquestionably both elevated and improved.

It would be extremely gratifying to be able to record an improvement in the moral and religious character of the population, commensurate with that which has taken place in their external circumstances and mode of living. But it must be admitted that in this respect there has been a very evident and decided falling off; that the strictness of religious principle has been relaxed; and the general tone of morality greatly lowered. The chief cause of this unfortunate deterioration is undoubtedly to be found in the great influx into the parish, from Dundee and other large towns, of immoral and dissolute characters of both sexes, who obtain employment in the numerous spinning-mills in the neighbourhood; and it is not difficult to foresee that the contagious effect of this moral pestilence must inevitably be felt throughout the community. Great exertions are at present making, however, by the gratuitous instruction of the children of the working classes in Sabbath schools and otherwise, to counteract this evil influence, and to promote the growth of practical religion and morality throughout the parish; and it is to be hoped that the means employed for this object may, through the blessing of God, be attended with the desired effect, and lay the foundation of a gradual and thorough reformation.

January 1843.

PARISH OF KINNOULL.

PRESBYTERY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.

THE REV. JOHN EDWARD TOUCH, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Extent, &c.—THIS parish is of a very irregular form, being intersected in different directions by those adjoining. It includes the village of Balbeggie on its northern extremity, betwixt and which the parishes of Scone and St Martins intervene, while the village of Inchyra, lying on its eastern extremity, has the parish of Kinfauns interjacent. Its greatest length may be stated at 12 miles, its greatest breadth 4. The central part of the parish, con-

taining about seven-ninths of the population, lies immediately opposite to Perth, from which it is separated by the Tay : and, rising from the margin of the river till it reaches the summit of the hill of Kinnoull, presents many striking features of natural beauty.

Geology.—The principal part of the parish being situated on the western terminal slope of the Sidlaw hills, consists almost entirely of the different varieties of trap, of which a large portion of that range is composed. One slight and solitary exception occurs in a thin bed of stratified sandstone, seen to lie over the trap in a quarry near the church. Great beds of water-worn gravel rest on the rocky strata, some two hundred feet above the present level of the river, and these are peculiarly conspicuous near the toll-bar at Barnhill, about three-fourths of a mile, south-east from the church. On the river side, rich alluvium prevails like that which constitutes the soil of the lower Carse. In the Inchyra section of the parish, trap also is alone visible, although it is extremely probable that the great bed of red or greyish sandstone which fills up the Carse of Gowrie, and the westernmost quarries of which are at Pitfour, in the adjoining parish of St Madoes, extends as high up as Seggieden, and consequently may be found around Inchyra. The rich alluvium here, however, is so thick, that after quitting the slopes of the trap on the hill side, and descending to the level ground, no rocks of any sort are visible. The Balbeggie division of the parish, though lying within the region of the old red sandstone formation, consists chiefly of the same material as that alone appearing in the other two districts. Greyish red sandstone is found, however, and is abundant in the neighbourhood. It is of considerable beauty, and from its compactness and durability, is in demand as a building stone.

The minerals in the parish are so common, and are so universally found in trap districts, that it is unnecessary to enumerate them. The splendid agates, of which most museums in Britain contain specimens, and which are known by the name of Kinnoull stones, though found in the hill of Kinnoull, are so chiefly, in that part of it lying in the parish of Kinfauns.

Climate, &c.—The climate of this parish may be said to be generally salubrious. From the fine exposure of that part of it which lies opposite to Perth, and the shelter from the east which the rising grounds interpose, there are here the earliest indications of coming spring. Close to the river, no doubt, hoar frost is occasionally very severe, as is seen in its effects on shrubs and plants

coming within its range,—these being often *killed down*, while, of those occupying an elevation, higher by a few yards only, some are to be found, having acquired a prescriptive right to the name of evergreens—others, again, almost refusing to be deciduous.

Rivers, Salmon-Fishing, &c.—The Tay, forming the western boundary of the parish, divides itself into two parts a little below the church, forming a small island called Moncrieff island, one-half of which is in this parish, and the other in that of Perth. That branch of the river on the farther side of the island is the course which larger vessels hold, in coming to Perth, while that on this side is navigable by vessels of about 60 tons burden, and affords a somewhat shorter passage, when, in spring tides, they seek to make Kinnoull shore; and from which, within the last few years, two vessels of that measurement have been launched.

Of the many valuable salmon-fishings on the river, Kinnoull has its share,—the stations or hauls belonging to it being rented at about L. 1200 per annum.

Hills.—“There are two hills in this parish, Kinnoull-hill, and the hill of Murray’s-hall, which are rather different parts of the same ridge of hills, at the distance of two miles from one another; from which there is one of the most beautiful and extensive prospects. The hill of Kinnoull is the most remarkable. Its height above the level of the Tay is 632 feet. On the south it is exceedingly steep, consisting of ragged rock, and presents a very striking and formidable appearance. It is covered with a thriving plantation to the very summit. On the north side of the hill there is a gradual ascent, through a serpentine walk, by which a carriage can easily go to the top. This is called Montague’s walk, from the late Duke of Montague, who was in Scotland when it was formed.

“There is a steep and hollow descent betwixt two tops of the hill, which is called the *Windy Gowle*. Near to this place, in certain positions, there is a remarkable echo, that repeats above nine times; and on the face of the hill there is a cave in a steep part of the rock, which, it is said, will contain about a dozen of men. It is called the *Dragon-hole*. We are informed from the ancient records of the kirk-session of Perth that, during the time of Popery, a great number of people assembled here on the 1st of May to celebrate superstitious games, which the Reformers prohibited under severe censures and heavy penalties. There is a tradition

among the common people that Sir William Wallace hid himself in this hole of the rock, where he absconded for some time."

Botany.—This parish affords no inconsiderable variety of plants, in consequence of its embracing part of Kinnoull hill, together with some small detached portions of moor and upland pasture, as well as fertile fields in conjunction with the Tay. From a list of upwards of 430 species which might be enumerated, the following are given as the most rare:—

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Acinos vulgaris | Galium boreale | † Poterium sanguisorba |
| Anchusa sempervirens | † Geranium pyrenaicum | Primula elatior |
| Allium carinatum | ————— columbinum | Ranunculus hirsutus |
| Arabia hirsuta | Grammites ceterach | Rumex sanguineus |
| Centaurea scabiosa | Hesperis matronalis | Scirpus sylvaticus |
| ————— alba | Hyoeyamus niger | † Sedum album |
| Cerastium semidecandrum | Lactuca virosa | Scrophularia vernalis |
| Cichorium Intybus | Leonurus Cardiaca | Stachys arvensis |
| Cheiranthus Cheiri | Lepidium campestre | Thlaspi arvense |
| Conium maculatum | Lotus tenuis | Trientalis Europæa |
| Cynoglossum officinale | Myosotis collina | Viola hirta |
| Echium vulgare | Parietaria officinalis | Veronica anagallis. |
| Erythraea Centaurium | Potentilla argentea | |
| Fedia dentata | ————— verna | |

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners are, the Earl of Kinnoull; Lord Gray; Niel Fergusson Blair, Esq. of Balthayock; Andrew Murray, Esq. of Murrayshall; Robert Crystal, Esq. of Inchyra; Sir Thomas Moncrieffe of Moncrieffe, Bart.; ——— Farquharson Macdonald, Esq. of St Martins; Captain Moncrieffe of Barnhill or Woodend; Archibald Turnbull, Esq. of Bellwood; and the Directors of James Murray's Royal Asylum. Besides these, there are many proprietors of villas, in the central part of the parish, having from two to eight acres attached.

Parochial Registers.—The session registers commence in 1618, and, with the exception of the period between 1725 and 1730, have been regularly brought down to the present time.

Eminent Characters, Antiquities, &c.—As from this parish the title of the Noble family of Kinnoull has its origin, so did it continue for many generations to be their burial-place; and within the aisle which was attached to the old church, there still remains, in high preservation, a very striking monument, erected in 1635, to the memory of George, first Earl of Kinnoull, and Chancellor of Scotland. In a recess behind four columns, enriched with a variety of curious ornaments, and surmounted by a pediment em-

* Those marked † may most probably have escaped from the nurseries. They are quite naturalised on rocks and walls in the immediate vicinity of Kinnoull church.

bellished with escutcheons, stands a statue of the Chaucellor in his robes, his left hand resting on a small table, and on which are placed, side by side, the Great Seal of Scotland, &c. (insignia of his office), and a human skull. There is no inscription. The simple but striking device explains itself.

This curious relic is carefully roofed in and preserved; and there is reason to believe that the present Noble representative of the family is disposed to give even greater external character to a building under which the ashes of his ancestors have long reposed. The site of this mausoleum is peculiarly striking, occupying the centre of the old parish burying-ground, which immediately overhangs the river.

The character of the Chancellor is given by Crawford in his "Lives of the Officers of State," as "by a person of honour and great probity, who had very good access to know. That he had the reputation of a very wise man; behaved himself very well in his function, and appeared equal to it, and carried himself so moderately, both in Parliament and council, that he did his master much service, and preserved himself in the good opinion of the nation,—a favour very few other men in any high trust at that time were indulged with."*

Although no inscription is to be found on the monument, an epitaph, by Dr Arthur Johnston, is given by Crawford.

About a quarter of a mile south from this spot, some small vestiges of the old Castle of Kinnoull remained at the date of the last Statistical Account, but which have now disappeared, the site being occupied as an orchard attached to one of the many villas

* A curious anecdote, strikingly characteristic of the resoluteness of the chancellor in maintaining the high privileges attached to his office, is recorded by Sir James Balfour in his Annals of Scotland. It appears that the King, in a letter to his Privy-council, had commanded that the Archbishop of St Andrews, as primate and metropolitan of Scotland, might have the precedence of the Lord Chancellor, "and so, consequently, before all others; wich, notwithstanding, the Lord Chancellor Hay, a gallant stout man, wold never condescend too, nor even suffer him to have place of him, doe quhat he could, all the dayes of his lifetime. I remember (continues Sir James) that King Charles sent me, the day of his coronatione, in the morning, in Ao. 1633, to show the chanceler that it wes his will and pleasure, bot only for that day, that he wold cee and give place to the archbishope; bot he returnid by me to his Majestie a wery bruske answer, wich wes, that since his Majesty had beine pleased to continue him in that office of chanceler, wich, by his meines, his vorthey father, of happy memorie, had bestowed upone him, he was redey, in all humility, to lay it doune at his Majestie's feete; bot, since it wes his royall will, he should enjoy it with the knowne pravvillidges of the same, no preist in Scotland should sett a foot befor him so long as his blood was hotte." The King finding his chancellor immoveable, and his own somewhat disingenuous proposal thus thwarted, seems to have been in no good humour when, on hearing the result of the conference, he replied, "Weel, Lyone, lette go to bussiness. I will not meddle furdur with that olde cankered gootish man, at quhose hands there is nothing to be gazed bot soure wordes."

with which the river side is studded. The only memorial of its existence preserved, is the name given by the proprietor to his residence, Castle Bank.

At Balthayock, the seat of a branch of the ancient family of Blair, are the remains of a castle, bearing marks of great antiquity, and supposed to have belonged to the Knights Templar. It consists of an oblong tower of about 50 feet in height, and the sides 52 and 37 feet. The walls are still entire, and of prodigious thickness. Its position is very commanding, cresting the top of a deep ravine, which the frowning mass, as seen from the Carse of Gowrie, appears to overhang. The present mansion-house of Balthayock, which stands within a few feet of the tower, had been built at different periods, and is also of considerable antiquity. The more modern part bears the date 1578, while that to which it is attached is supposed to be of a date about two centuries earlier. There is nothing striking in the character of the edifice beyond the *substantialness* which marks buildings of that period.

Modern Buildings.—The principal modern buildings (besides the church and Murray's Asylum, afterwards to be noticed,) are the mansion-house of Inchyra—a very handsome edifice of polished ashlar work, and in the Grecian style; and Bellwood, occupying a very striking position on the face of the hill of Kinnoull fronting Perth. The other mansion-houses in the parish are Murrayshall, and Barnhill, or Woodend.

Bridge of Perth.—So far back as 1329, a bridge connecting Kinnoull with Perth appears to have been constructed. In 1573, this erection was partly swept away. Again, in 1582, "the down-falling of five bowis" (arches) is recorded. In 1589 the "bra trein pillars of the brig" appear to have given way; and from that period being "ready to fall without help," it continued under repair, and a considerable portion of it was built anew, until, in 1617, the work was supposed to be at last substantially completed. But only four years thereafter (1621) "it was haily dung down, excepting only one bow thereof standing."

Strange to say, all after attempts to renew the fabric seem to have failed for a century and a-half, during which long period the only communication across this—one of the most frequented passes in Scotland—continued to be carried on by means of ferry-boats. At length, in 1766, the foundation stone of the present handsome structure, as planned by Smeaton, was laid by Thomas, eighth Earl of Kinnoull, and the work completed on the 13th of Novem-

ber 1771, at an expense of about L. 27,000. To that patriotic nobleman's exertions it may well be said to owe its existence; for not only was it commenced under his auspices, but a fund for its completion actually secured, by his Lordship's generous pledge of no inconsiderable part of his private fortune. From the substantial character of the building, and the scientific principles upon which it is constructed, it promises to afford a lasting monument of the skill and taste of its able architect, while the memory of its chief promoter will continue to be associated with the manifold advantages, not to Perth and its neighbourhood only, but to the country at large, which it has been the medium of conferring. It consists of ten arches, the clear water-way being 590 feet, and its extreme length 906 feet. It has often, of late years, been severely tested at the breaking-up of the ice in the river, when several of the arches have occasionally become nearly gorged by the gigantic masses which continued to accumulate on its upper side. Notwithstanding the tremendous pressure, it stood, as "still unshaken and unscathed it stands." Repeated proposals have been of late years made to widen the carriage-way—an improvement called for by the great increase of traffic; and it is now understood there is an immediate prospect of such a plan being adopted as, without disfiguring the structure, will not only effect this object, but afford a wider space for foot-passengers.

Bridgend.—This village, or rather suburb, which, before the new bridge was built, consisted chiefly of a few cottages occupied by the boatmen employed on the ferry, has so increased, as now to contain about four-sevenths of the population of the parish. It extends almost continuously from the church to the southern boundary of the parish of Scone, a distance of nearly three-fourths of a mile, the bridge being nearly equidistant from these two points. This district of the parish, like that stretching from the church towards Baronhill on its southern extremity, is richly studded with villas, which, from the striking position many of them occupy, whether on the river side, or on the rising grounds towards the north and east, contribute in no small degree to the picturesque beauty of the landscape which bursts upon the eye, when Perth and its environs are first seen on approaching them from the south. The Earl of Kinnoull is superior of the village, and in his Lordship's charter, it is styled the burgh of Kinnoull, with certain rights of markets, fairs, &c. but which have long since gone into desuetude. The houses, streets, and roads in and about

Bridgend are lighted with gas; and to this district of the parish are extended the other benefits of the Police Act lately obtained for Perth.

III.—POPULATION.

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|---|------|
| The population of this parish, as returned in 1755, was | 1163 |
| 1795, | 1465 |
| 1801, | 1927 |
| 1811, | 2491 |
| 1821, | 2674 |
| 1831, | 2957 |
| 1841, | 2870 |

The most remarkable period of increase is seen to be between 1795 and 1811, the increase being at no less a rate than 66 per cent.; while, by the census taken in 1821 and 1831, it is about 10 per cent. at each of these periods. The erection of the bridge in 1771 may be stated to be almost the sole cause of this large and progressive increase which has taken place in Bridgend and its neighbourhood. A decrease of nearly 3 per cent. is for the first time observable in 1841; and this is to be accounted for by the depression in trade and manufactures, which has been felt here as elsewhere, since the date of the former census. Hence, not a few families have recently emigrated, and no less than 77 dwellings in the parish are at present uninhabited. There is no public work or manufactory in the parish.

The population in 1841 is reported as thus distributed :

| | | |
|--|--------------------|--------|
| Central part of the parish included within the parliamentary boundary of the burgh of Perth, | { Bridgend, 1578 } | } 1926 |
| Corsiehill, including Murrayhall, &c., | { Barnhill, 348 } | |
| Balthayock, | | 225 |
| Balbeggie, | | 172 |
| Inchyra, | | 255 |
| In Murray's Lunatic Asylum, | | 197 |
| Slept in a barge on the night of 6th June 1841, | | 150 |
| Population in villages, about country, | 1900 | 6 |
| Number of inhabited houses, | 970 | 2870 |
| uninhabited, | | 492 |
| building, | | 77 |
| | | None |

Births, Marriages, &c.—It need scarcely be remarked, that the following averages, given from the session records, afford no satisfactory conclusion, especially in a locality so closely connected with Perth. The yearly average number of recorded births for the last seven years, is 40; of burials no register is kept beyond the mortcloth book, which records 30; proclamation of banns, 24.

Number of illegitimate births during last three years, 5; insane persons in the parish, 2; fatuous, 2; blind, 2.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Almost every variety of soil is to be found in the parish; and

such is the improvement of late years in its culture and management, that very few spots remain in which the best systems of husbandry are not practised. The latest improvement introduced is that of tile-draining.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Number of imperial acres in the parish, | 3700 |
| Of which, arable and pasture lands, | 3100 |
| Under wood, | 580 |
| Undivided common, | 20 |
| | — 3700 |

Rent of Land.—The average rent of land may be stated to be from L.2, 5s. to L.2, 10s. per acre; but in the central part of the parish, *i. e.* in the immediate neighbourhood of Perth, from L.5 to L.10 per acre is readily paid; and along the bank of the river, grounds for villas have of late years been sold at no less a rate than L.1000 per acre.

Rental of the Parish.—The old valued rent of the parish is L.4775, 18s. 6d.

The real rental, as made up in 1823, and by which the assessment for building a new church was regulated, was declared to be L.12,303; but the rents both of lands and houses having since considerably fallen, perhaps L.10,000 should be now substituted. In this sum, the rent of the salmon-fishings in the parish is included.

Nurseries.—So far back as the year 1767, a nursery was formed here, on the east bank of the Tay, by Mr Dickson of Hassen-deanburn, in Roxburghshire. He was soon thereafter succeeded by his brother, Mr William Dickson, who, for the long period of sixty-three years, continued to conduct this extensive establishment in a spirit of enterprize and improvement, and with a good taste, which not only made his professional name well known throughout the island, but insured him a wide field of demand for those endless varieties of nature's productions which he was so successful in rearing. Since his death in 1835, its various departments have been conducted in the same spirit, and even on a more enlarged scale, under the direction of his nephew, who had for many years taken an active part in its management. These grounds now extend to not less than 60 acres: and from their *lie*, their natural and artificial shelter, and the variety of soils which they contain, it is difficult to conceive a situation more adapted, whether by nature or art, for every possible purpose to which such establishments are sought to be appropriated. Its giving employment to between 70 and 80 individuals, may be mentioned as not

the least important of the advantages which it confers on the parish and neighbourhood.

At the northern extremity of the village of Bridgend, another nursery, containing about eight acres, has within these few years been formed.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Ecclesiastical State.—Mr Lewis Dunbar was translated from the parish of Dunning, in the presbytery of Auchterarder, to Kinnoull, 7th November 1782, and died there on 22d February 1829. The present incumbent was translated from the parish of Maderty, in the presbytery of Auchterarder, and admitted minister of Kinnoull on 24th September 1829.

The former church of Kinnoull, rebuilt in 1779, accommodated only 400 sitters; and although in 1795, the last incumbent complains, that even then, it was “much too small,” it continued down to the year 1826, without addition or enlargement, the population still continuing steadily to increase, and nearly one-half of those connected with the Establishment being thus necessitated to seek accommodation in the various churches of Perth. In that year, however, the present handsome and spacious structure, in the Gothic style, from a plan of Mr Burn, was erected within a few hundred yards of the old one, at an expense of about L. 4000. The internal arrangements, and the chasteness of the exterior, are alike creditable to the architect. It contains upwards of 1000 sittings.

The only other place of worship in the parish, is in the village of Balbeggie, five miles distant, where an Antiburgher meeting-house was built in 1788, but which was taken down a few years ago, and replaced by one of more ornate character, containing about 350 sittings. It is in connection with the Associate Synod. There is a comfortable house for the minister, with garden, offices, &c. attached.

A new manse and offices were built in 1829, immediately after the induction of the present incumbent. They occupy a very favourable position on the rising ground above the Tay, commanding a view of a considerable stretch of the river. Several old trees, planted about a century ago, skirt the buildings. One of these, a larch, is rather a picturesque object, from the fantastic form it has assumed.

The glebe adjoins the manse, and contains about $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres. #

may let for about L. 22. There is no grass glebe nor any allowance for one.

The present incumbent is in possession of an instrument of seisin, dated 13th June 1726, giving infeftment in these acres to the then incumbent, Mr Andrew Darling, for himself and his successors in office—rather a rare mode, it is believed, of making good the title of a minister to his glebe lands. It follows on a contract of excambion between George, Earl of Kinnoull, and Mr Darling, and contains a power of resiling, so soon as the minister or his successors “shall complain of the quantity of his glebe, and desire to have the same augmented.”

The stipend was in 1835 augmented to 124 bolls, 3 firlots, 3 pecks, $\frac{1}{4}$ lippie of barley; 129 bolls, 3 firlots, 2 pecks, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lippie of meal. L. 42, 10s. $2\frac{1}{2}$ d Sterling; and L. 10 for communion elements. A small part of the money stipend, which is laid on the feuars of Bridgend, has hitherto been lost to the present incumbent, from the difficulty of apportioning it.

The proportion of the population belonging to the Establishment, as given up to the Royal Commissioners in 1836, was stated to be about 2060; belonging to other denominations, 780; not known to belong to any, 160. But in this last number were included 91 patients in the Lunatic Asylum; and the remaining 69 included the children of those who were not members in any church. The difference in the above proportions since that period is so trifling as to be scarcely perceptible.

There are eight Episcopalians in the parish, and three Roman Catholics.

From the circumstance, before noticed, of so many of the parishioners having, for a period of half-a century, been accustomed to seek accommodation for themselves and their families, in the different places of worship in Perth, it can easily be understood that the habit of resorting thither still continues with not a few; and when it is farther considered that, within the last seven years, two additional churches, connected with the Establishment, have been reared there (while the population, both in Perth and in this parish, has been rather on the decrease,) it is not, perhaps, to be wondered at, if the same fluctuations in the attendance of parishioners are observable here as in other localities similarly situated. The partial disruption of the parochial system, which such concomitant causes tend gradually to introduce, it is difficult to obviate, and more especially where such a quantum of accommo-

dation exists in the close vicinity, as is to be found in Perth. Notwithstanding, however, this somewhat anomalous state of things, and the hindrances thence arising to the working of a scheme for supporting its poor, which has been introduced since the induction of the present incumbent, the fact of the collections being nearly treble the amount of what they were before the new church was erected, indicates a quantum of attendance throughout the year, as large as can, in the circumstances, be expected. The whole population, of all ages, connected with the Establishment, residing within two miles of the church, does not exceed 1500; and of these, from 500 to 550 are hearers at Kinnoull; whilst about 200 attend other Established churches in Perth. The number of communicants varies from 420 to 500. The Lord's Supper is dispensed twice in the year, on the same days on which that solemnity is observed in Perth. Occasionally a few individuals from the distant corners of the parish join here at these times, but the great majority of such, partake of the ordinance in the churches of St Madoes, St Martins, and Kinfauns, where, on account of their distance from their parish church, they seek the benefit of Sabbath-day service throughout the year. From 80 to 100 of the parishioners communicate in these churches.

Education.—The parochial school is well attended by about 130 scholars on an average; the salary is the maximum; and the amount of the teacher's fees is about forty guineas annually. His emolument as session-clerk may be reckoned at L. 10; but these are still more contingent. There is a good school and school-house, with an excellent garden attached.

The higher branches of instruction are rarely sought for here, Perth, with its academy and grammar-school, being close at hand. There are three unendowed schools; one at Bridgend, and two lying on the outskirts of the parish, namely, at Halbeggie and Balthayock; the latter located in Kinfauns, but within a few yards of the Kinnoull boundary. In these districts, much difficulty is felt in retaining the services of a good teacher. A small salary, in addition to the scanty amount of school-fees, is required, and endeavours are at present employed with a view to secure this object. The people may be said to be generally fully alive to the benefits of education, and there are few, if any, of their children between six and fifteen years of age who cannot read or write. Where poverty is pleaded or known as the hindrance to bestowing this invaluable boon, the parochial teacher, on the recommendation of the

kirk-session, willingly undertakes the task of instructing such gratuitously. There are several Sabbath schools in the parish, that in the central part being conducted by the parochial teacher and the minister, and having upwards of 100 scholars in attendance.

National Security Savings Banks.—One of these useful institutions exists in Perth; and it is noticed here, on account of its benefits being as immediately available to the inhabitants of this parish as to the adjoining city, where it has its head office. Although established under the sanction of the more recent legislative enactments, no farther back than 1839, with a capital of L. 3032, the sum at the credit of depositors at November 1842, amounted to no less than L. 35,254, showing an increase in the course of four years of L. 32,222; the number of depositors increasing in the same period from 859 to 2800. These results furnish evidence of perhaps a greater proportional measure of success than distinguishes any similar institution in the country, that of Edinburgh excepted.

It is conducted under the superintendence of a very numerous and highly influential body of trustees and managers, and its benefits extend to the country as well as to the city, the branches or receiving-houses being six in number. The important fact, that it continues to grow in the estimation and confidence of those for whose benefit it was specially intended, is proved by the details given in last annual report, which make it evident that it is chiefly resorted to by the labouring classes, and is, in truth, what it professes to be,—“the Working Man’s Bank.” Notwithstanding the late depression in trade and manufactures, the increase on deposits during the last year was L. 4914. At the same time, there is little doubt that its beneficial operation is in no small degree hindered by the number and proximity of licensed alehouses, to which circumstance, some measure of the poverty and want of domestic economy and comfort here occasionally observable in the families of the working-classes, may be traced. The evil has of late been sought to be lessened by an annual representation from the kirk-session to the Justices of the Peace, at the time of granting licences. The fact of such endeavours having been encouraged, and so far rendered effectual, is gratefully recorded.

James Murray’s Royal Asylum for Lunatics.—To the benevolence of Mr James Murray, a native of the parish of Perth, the public are indebted for this splendid institution, which is admitted to be one of the best conducted in the kingdom. A short

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account of the events which put it in the power of that individual to bequeath the funds for its establishment, may not be uninteresting.

Mr William Hope, the son of Mr Murray's mother, having gone to India in early life, realized in Madras a very large fortune as a merchant. Having, by the advice of his physicians, determined to return to Europe in 1809, he early, in that year, executed his will, providing handsomely for his wife and four daughters, and bequeathing, at the same time, considerable legacies to his mother and her two sons. The deed, however, contained no provision against the event which afterwards followed; but by a peculiar interposition of providence, when Mr Hope was about to embark with his family, he hurriedly, as appears from his will, provided, that, in the event of himself and his family perishing at sea, his fortune should go to his mother and her sons. On the 30th of January 1809, he, with his wife and daughters, embarked for England in the *Jane* Duchess of Gordon. The sad fate of that vessel, and of other three Indiamen of the same fleet, is still well remembered. Mr Hope and his family were among the hundreds who perished in the storm. Neither ships, nor crews, nor passengers were ever seen or heard of since the fatal night of the 15th of March 1809. Out of this appalling event a succession opened up to Mr Murray, which enabled him to endow this institution on its present splendid scale.

The building, which is spacious and handsome, stands on the acclivity of Kinnoull hill, commanding an immense range of view. Upwards of L.40,000 have been expended on the house and grounds; and latterly, the directors have purchased a farm adjoining, at an expense of nearly L.7000. The plan, and indeed the whole of the arrangements, were designed by Mr Burn, and these may be said to have been so contrived as not only to embrace every modern improvement, which is to be found in similar institutions throughout the kingdom, but to render available the many special advantages connected with so favourable a locality. The house stands in the middle of a park of twelve acres, with its gardens, walks, and shrubberies, in which the convalescent patient may seek exercise or amusement. A number of verandahs commanding the extensive view before referred to, afford him the benefit of enjoying healthful occupations in the open air, during the greatest heat of summer, or the most inclement weather of winter. While all is sufficiently secure to prevent injury or escape, all is free from the gloomy aspect of con-

finement, and there is an air of quiet and of comfort which never fails to strike the visitor as pervading the whole arrangements of the institution. It was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1827, and its management vested permanently in twenty-five directors, viz. nine *ex officio*, four for life, and twelve elected annually. It was opened on 28th June 1827, and at present contains 140 patients.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—Many years ago, the heritors of this parish found it necessary to meet the wants of the poor by annual voluntary contributions. Finding, however, the burden becoming gradually heavier, in consequence of the great increase in the population, a fund of about L.170 was uplifted and applied; and, finally, in 1823, it became necessary to resort to the last and least desirable expedient of a legal assessment. The evils arising out of this system were soon felt and complained of, and almost immediately after the present incumbent's induction, he was urged by his parishioners to seek for a renewal of the previous system. Some difficulty was experienced in the first attempts to accomplish the object. The following pleas continued to be urged, however, on the part of the kirk-session: 1st, That the heritors would have for the present (1831) to contribute somewhat less than they had been in use to pay for the preceding seven years; 2d, That the expense connected with collecting from upwards of 400 individuals would be saved; 3d, That the plan proposed might operate, in some degree, as a check upon what seems to have become the necessary concomitants of stated assessments for the poor, viz. an increase in their numbers and in their demands; and, 4th, That it would at once remove that feeling of dissatisfaction and grudge, and even of resistance, which had manifested itself, and lead to the revival and enlargement of that true charity which gives not by constraint, but willingly. Then, and not till then, was it held to be likely that any successful appeal could be made to this Christian principle among the parishioners generally.

The heritors soon thereafter agreed to make the experiment, and the results have been such as to encourage its continuance up to the present time,—for one and all of the anticipated consequences have been the result, 1st, the heritors themselves continue to pay somewhat less than before; 2d, the expense of collecting, and of the legal proceedings occasionally required to enforce payment, are saved to the parishioners generally,—the minister and elders themselves undertaking the work of gathering in the

contributions, whether from heritors or members of other congregations, or from those who are but occasional hearers in the parish church; 3d, the number of ordinary or stated paupers has considerably lessened; and, *lastly*, the collections at the church door have continued considerably to exceed the estimated probable amount. Average collections for the three years preceding the imposing of assessment in 1824, L.47, 17s. 2½d.; for the three years following, L.29, 9s. 8d.; for the three years, 1839, 40, 41, L.114, 0s. 7d.; average contributions by heritors for do. L.65; do. by parishioners attending other churches, or but occasional hearers at Kinnoull, L.23; average mortcloth dues, proclamations, &c. L.8, 15s.; highest rate of annual relief to paupers on roll (exclusive of those in Murray's Asylum), L.6, 16s. 6d.; lowest, L.1, 11s. 6d. The average number of ordinary poor is now reduced to 20; but there is a like number of orphan children upon the roll. Occasional relief is furnished to about 25 not on the roll. Coals are distributed annually in January to about 60 of those receiving permanent or occasional relief. The whole expense of management since 1831 had been only L.5 annually, but in 1840, the heritors augmented the allowance to the kirk treasurer, which is now L.10.

It is to be hoped, that nothing may occur to mar the operation of this scheme, which has already proved so successful.

December 1842.

PARISH OF FORGANDENNY.*

PRESBYTERY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.

THE REV. JAMES DRUMMOND, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Extent.—THIS parish is about 10 miles long and 2 broad on an average. It stretches from the river Erne, its northernmost boundary, south-west into the Ochil hills, until it joins the parish of Milnathort. It is bounded on the east by the parishes of Dunbarny, Dron, and Arngask; on the west, by those of Forteviot and

* From Notes furnished by a parishioner of Forgandenny.