

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.

Dunning; and on the south and south-west, by those of Forteviot and Milnathort. A considerable portion of it, on the south-west, is in the county of Kinross; but by far the greater part lies in Perthshire.

Its whole extent is computed to be about 12,800 acres.

Topographical Appearances, &c.—It naturally divides itself into two parts, the lower and the higher; the former reaching, by a gradual ascent, from the Erne to the foot of the Ochils, a distance of about a mile and a-half; and the latter including all that part of the Ochils which lies in the parish. The lower part is generally of a rich soil, some of it being the best carse land, and in a state of high cultivation, producing wheat and all other kinds of grain in great abundance. The higher part is also, on the whole, well cultivated; but its climate being considerably colder, and its soil lighter, wheat is seldom grown on it.

The Ochil hills occupy fully three-fourths of the surface of the parish. Hardly any part of these can be said to be rocky, as they are all either pastured by sheep and cattle, or regularly cropped. They vary greatly in their respective heights, beginning on the north side by gentle acclivities, until they reach about 1000 feet above the level of the sea, which is the height of the highest hill in the parish.

There is a deep fissure on the boundary which separates this parish from Dron, on the edge, of which, it is said, one of the inhabitants was shot in the time of the persecutions under Charles II.

On the eastern boundary of the parish, and on Lord Ruthven's property, there are one or two springs, possessing exactly the same medicinal properties as the Pitcaithly wells.

The river Erne skirts the whole of the northern side of the parish. A great part of it also is intersected by the May, a beautiful mountain stream, which, taking its rise in the upper part of the parish of Auchterarder, flows westward through the Ochils, forming the northern boundary between this parish and Dunning, and dividing it in the highest part.*

Geology.—Nearly the whole of the parish, and especially the Ochil part of it, is composed of trap. This rock is, indeed, found at different depths, and varies considerably in its degree of hardness, being softer and more brittle where it has approached near

* Forgardenny was one of the eleven prebendaries of the Cathedral of Dunkeld, and is ranked as the seventh in order. The church was a mensal church of that cathedral, and furnished a stipend for one of its prebends.

the surface and yielded to the influence of the weather. The trap seems to overly the sandstone, with one trifling exception, throughout the whole extent of the parish; and in the case of this exception, the sandstone strata is found nearly in a vertical position. At that spot, too, the trap has changed the sandstone at the line of junction. The old red sandstone, doubtless, might be found in many places by cutting through the trap; but this has never been tried in any part of the parish. In the upper parts are to be found beautiful specimens of conglomerate in great abundance, the nodules of which are either trap or porphyry. Beautiful specimens of the blue and purple pebbles also abound in the decomposed trap. It is a singular circumstance, that, in so extensive a parish, and all lying upon rock, there has not been discovered any portion of the trap, with one solitary exception, sufficiently hard to build even a common dike with. It has its uses, however, and these are of no small importance,—being excellent for metalling roads, and making drains.

The only other variety of mineral found in the parish is a thin layer of laminar limestone on the lands of Dumbuils; but, from the great distance of coal, and the thinness of the seam, the present proprietor, Lawrence Oliphant, Esq. of Condie, has not considered it worth working.

It is stated in the former Statistical Account, that copper had at one period been wrought in the wood of Condie; but no traces of this metal have been lately met with.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Eminent Men.—The only public characters we have been able to discover in connection with this parish were, Sir William Oliphant of Newton, who was King's Advocate in the reign of James VI., and at whose instance many of the trials for witchcraft, so prevalent at that period, were conducted;—his grandson had the misfortune accidentally to kill his mother, and was obliged, in consequence, to fly the country: And Mr James Graeme of Newton who, before the Revolution in 1688, was solicitor to James VII.

In the churchyard, on the south side of the church, there is a tombstone bearing this inscription: "Here lies Andrew Brodie, wright in Forgandenny, who, at the break of a meeting, October 1678, was shot by a party of Highlandmen, commanded by Balloch, at a cave's mouth, flying thither for his life, and that for his adherence to the word of God, and Scotland's cove-

nanted work of Reformation. Rev. 12, c. 7." The account of this deed, which Wodrow gives in his history of the sufferings of the Church of Scotland, Vol. ii. p. 484, substantially agrees with this inscription. He says, "By an attested account I find this year (1678), there was a conventicle in Perthshire, at the hill of Caltenachar," supposed to be what is now called Culteuchar, one of the Ochils, and belonging at present to Lawrence Oliphant, Esq. of Condie, "in the parish of Forgandenny: and upon the Lord's day, an officer, with a company of wild Highlanders, came suddenly upon them, and, without any orders to dismiss, or essaying to seize any of them, discharged their pieces among the poor unarmed people. By good Providence, there was but one man killed—Andrew Broddy, a wright by trade, who lived at my Lord Ruthven's gate, in the green of Freeland. He left behind him a widow and four orphans."

The only point in which the record on the martyr's stone, and Wodrow's account seems to disagree, is the particular spot where the martyr was killed. The stone says it was a cave's mouth; while Wodrow's testimony is, that it was on the hill of Caltenachar. The tradition of the parish is, that the event took place at a cave, or rather what in this quarter is termed a deigh, or dell, on the boundary between this parish and that of Dron, and not more than two or three hundred yards from the hill of Caltenachar. In all likelihood, in those days, the whole of the range extending east to that deigh might be called Cultenchar, and Andrew Brodie's murder might be perpetrated at that spot. His descendants, some of whom are still resident in the parish, say, that after he had been shot, his wife, who was also present at the conventicle, immediately went and covered his body with her scarlet mantle or cloak. One of the party of soldiers then came up to her, and asked her what she now thought of her husband? To which she replied, "More than ever I thought of him." The same thing is related of the widow of the poor pious carrier, John Brown of Priestfield, in the parish of Muirkirk, whom Claverhouse shot with his own hand; but there is no difficulty in supposing that these widows might both speak in these terms of their husbands.

The earliest registers of the parish begin with September 24th 1654; and from that date down to the present time, the entries are made with great regularity and distinctness. They are not voluminous.

On the north side of the Ochils, there is a hill of considerable

height, on which there has evidently been a castle or fortification of great extent. The description given of this hill and fortification in the former Statistical Account, is very accurate, and is still strictly applicable. "Somewhat more than a mile," or more nearly two miles south of the village of Fogandenny, is a place called Castle-Law. It is situated upon the summit of a high hill, which resembles a low cone. The circumference of its area is about 500 yards. This spot is defended on all sides by a stone wall, the vestiges of which are yet to be seen. These vestiges are of a form nearly circular, and the walls seem to have taken their form from the top of the hill on which they were built. Besides this wall, there are also several outworks, which seem to have been formed for defence; particularly on the south side, where the hill is less steep, and the ground below higher, there are three distinct mounds of earth parallel to the wall and to each other. Within the area of this castle or fortification are the vestiges of buildings, which vestiges cannot now be easily traced; and there was erected by a former Lord Ruthven on this spot a sort of half tower, part of which is still standing. The top of this hill commands a prospect of the county to the mouth of the Tay or the German Ocean on the east; all Strathearn to the Grampian mountains on the west; a great part of Perthshire and Angus-shire on the north and north-east; and the summit of the Lomond hills on the south. The general opinion concerning Castle-Law is, that it had been a Danish fortification." Another opinion, however, which has been much entertained of late, is, that it must have been a vitrified fort. I believe some pieces of vitrified stone have been found among the immense mass of rubbish which it contains. At all events, both the hill itself, and the remains of the fortification, bear a very close resemblance to the Castle-Law, in the parish of Abernethy, which is allowed on all hands to have been a vitrified fort.

On the estate of Ardargie, belonging to Mrs Fechney, and lying about a mile and a-half south-west of Castle-Law, there is a beautifully preserved small Roman camp, which has been so called from time immemorial. Its walls and ditches are quite distinct, and almost entire. The proprietors have all along prevented them from being altered in any way. This ancient encampment is situated upon a high sloping bank looking towards the west, immediately above the May, and commanding a wide prospect of that part of the Ochils, and also a view of the great Roman road which passed from the Tay to the great encampment at Ardoch. From

its position, it must have been admirably fitted to prevent any parties from descending in that direction to the adjacent valley of Strathearn. Its figure is an exact square, each side of which is about 90 yards long. On its south side, it is defended by a deep hollow, through which a small brook runs; and on the remaining three sides, by deep trenches. The width of these trenches at the top is about ten yards; their depth, on the sides next the encampment, is about 14, while on the outside it is 10.

There are the remains of another fortification on what is called the Law of Dumbuils, belonging to the estate of Freeland, about a mile south-east of the village. This Law is a low craggy eminence; it is elliptical in its form; the south and west sides, being a precipitous rock, form of themselves a natural wall; while on the north and east sides a wall has been formed of very large granite boulders, many of which still occupy their original position. This Law commands a beautiful and extensive view of the lower part of Strathearn, of the north part of the coast of Fife, of the windings of the Tay, and of the Carse of Gowrie, all the way to Dundee, a distance of more than twenty miles.

Land-Owners.—The principal land-owners in the parish are, the Right Honourable Lord Ruthven of Freeland; Lawrence Oliphant, Esq. of Condie; James S. Oliphant, Esq. of Rossie; and Mrs Fechney of Ardargie. With the exception of the barony of Struie, which holds feu of Stirling of Keir, and which formerly belonged to that family, and also that part of the parish, containing about 1000 acres, which lies in the county of Kinross, and which holds feu of the Grahams of Kinross; the remainder appears to have been divided betwixt the houses of Oliphant and Ruthven, who, during the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries, possessed large estates in this neighbourhood. About three-fourths of the parish still belong to the descendants of these houses.

List of ministers who have been settled in this parish since the Reformation:—

1. Mr William Row, who preached before James VI. at Stirling.
2. Mr John Row, who died in 1589.
3. Mr William Row, who died October 1634, in the seventy-first year of his age.
4. Mr William Row, who was ordained assistant to his father, and died in 1658, in the thirty-fourth year of his ministry.
5. Mr David Orme, who was called in 1659, and ordained on

the 30th of August. He continued here only two or three years, having removed when Episcopacy was introduced in Charles II.'s time.

6. Mr John Liddell. He was presented by George Halyburton, Bishop of Dunkeld, on the 25th April, and admitted to the parish in the following August. He was translated to Scone in February 1667.

7. Mr Andrew Hardy was settled in 1667, and continued minister of the parish till the Revolution in 1688.

8. Mr William Dick was called in May, and ordained on 4th September 1695. He was translated to Cupar in Fife by the commission of the General Assembly in June 1702.

9. Mr Peter Pilmer was called 18th November 1702, ordained on 13th May 1703, and died 16th February 1749, in the sixtieth year of his age, and the thirty-seventh of his ministry.*

10. Mr John Glen, who was called 25th December 1740, ordained 23d April, and died 10th October 1792, in the eighty-fourth year of his age, and the fifty-second of his ministry.

11. Mr John Willison, who was ordained on the 17th September 1793, and died on the 7th February 1828, in the seventy-fourth year of his age, and the thirty-fifth of his ministry in this parish, having been translated from West Calder, where he had been settled eight years.

12. Mr James Drummond, the present incumbent, who was called 3d July 1828, and ordained on the 11th September of the same year.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish must once have been much larger than it has been for at least the last fifty years.† This decrease

* Of Mr Pilmer we find a very interesting notice in Mr Fraser of Kennoway's "Life and Diary of the Rev. Ralph Erskine of Dunfermline."

"Nor was Mr Gow of Cargil," says the author, "the only clergyman whose caution ultimately prevailed against his courage. We may here specify the Rev. Mr Pilmer of Forgandenny, as supplying another instance. An intimate friendship subsisted between him and Mr Wilson of Perth. Soon after the secession, Mr Pilmer was seized with an illness that terminated in death. During the time of his affliction he was anxious to enjoy much of Mr Wilson's company, who gratified him on this point as far as he could. Conversing one day very closely, Mr Wilson hinted to him, 'Brother, I think you should have stood forth with me, and some others, and borne an open testimony against those indignities which you have often lamented, and which are so injurious to your Master's cause and interest at this day.' The good dying man replied, 'Yes, brother, I have always been deficient in courage and zeal for my Lord and Master, but I hope, by the riches of his mercy, that sin, and all my other sins, shall be as the iniquities of Israel, which shall be sought for, and there shall be none, and as the sins of Judah, that shall not be found.'"

† In the Old Account dated 1727, it is said to have contained above 1000 examina-

has arisen chiefly from the small farms being thrown into larger ones.

The population in 1801 was	958
1811	902
1821	902
1831	913
1841	796

Of the 796, the present population, about eighty live in the village of Fogandenny. The rest are scattered over the rural parts of the parish, with the exception of about forty, who live in a small village in the Ochils, called Path Struie, and now more commonly the Path of Condie.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—About 2000 acres have never been cultivated; although one-half of these, it is supposed, might be cultivated with advantage. Mr Oliphant of Condie, who is a very intelligent and enterprising agriculturist, has of late years broken up a great deal of these waste lands, carrying his improvements to the very hill-tops, and has them now laid down in beautiful sheep pasture, and enclosed with excellent fences. Two of his tenants in the Ochil part of his estate are following his example, and have their extensive farms laid down in the same manner. No part of this parish is now in a state of undivided common. About 438 acres are planted, and about forty of these are covered with natural wood. About 100 acres of the lower part of the parish are of rich clay land, through which the Erne has cut its way, and formed a low bed of alluvial soil, formed by the same process as the Carse of Gowrie.

The rent of the lands in the parish varies from L.3 to 8s.

The fishings on the Earne are let at about L.10 a year.

In looking back two hundred years to the quantity of produce, or to the value of land, as estimated in 1650, compared with the present time, we do not find that great rise which is exhibited in many of the other parishes of Scotland. This is easily accounted for; three-fourths of the parish being hilly, and producing little else but grass, in which state it still remains to a great extent, it is obvious that it would feed as much stock 200 years ago, as it does at present. The difference of value, therefore, can arise only from the difference of value of the animal, and not from the number. Three-fourths of the parish being admirably suited for turnip husbandry, sheep-walks may be carried to the tops of the

able persons, taking the age from seven and upwards. The annual number of baptisms was then about 30, and of deaths about 20.

highest hills. This is, in fact, going rapidly forward at present on the estate of Condie, under the direction of the present intelligent proprietor. At this moment, he has growing, on the summit of the highest hill in the parish, as beautiful a crop of turnip as is to be seen in any part of Strathearn. Several years ago he introduced wire fences into the hill part of his property, and has already erected six or seven miles of these. He was the first to introduce them in this part of the country, and his example is now generally followed, not only here, but in many other parts of Perthshire. A facility of enclosing has thus been obtained, the want of which was the great drawback to systematic improvement in the upper parts of this parish, as no stones are to be found fitted for building dikes or walls. These wire-fences are composed of oak, or larch, or ash posts, placed three and four yards apart, with five horizontal wires, the whole costing about 6d. per yard.

A great portion of the lower part of the parish has been furrow-drained. These drains have been filled chiefly with broken trap; but drain-tiles are now beginning to be introduced to a considerable extent, particularly on the estate of Freeland.

Fallows, except upon the stiffest clay, have been entirely given up, to make way for the growth of potatoes for the London market, which is largely supplied with these from this parish.

A striking improvement has taken place in farm buildings of every description, since the last Statistical Account was published. At that period, almost the whole houses in the parish were thatched with straw; but now, every new building is either covered with reeds brought from the Carse of Gowrie, or with slates.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Ecclesiastical State.—The stipend is 12 chalders, 2 bolls, 1 fir-lof, 2 pecks, 1½ lippy of grain, two-thirds of which are meal, and one-third barley, and L.24 payable in money. This includes an allowance of L.5 for communion elements.

The glebe, including the stance of manse and offices, and the garden, is about six acres. Its value is about L.12.

There are about 180 Dissenters in the parish, chiefly belonging to the United Secession body, who have a small church at the Path of Condie.

Schools.—There are two schools in the parish, viz. the parochial school, in the village of Forgandenny, generally attended by about 70 scholars at an average, and another at the Path of Condie.

The latter is an endowed school, in connection with, and under the superintendence of, the Church of Scotland. It seems to have been instituted shortly after 1663, by an act of the presbytery of Perth, dated October 3d 1660, which was afterwards confirmed by the Privy-Council in the year 1663, empowering the heritors to uplift the vacant stipend of 1659, and appropriate it to the formation and endowment of a school at the Path of Condie. The money thus raised is laid out at interest for the behoof of the teacher. This sum, however, is small; but the last incumbent of the parish, Mr Willison, bequeathed a small field for its support, which, with a house upon it, yields L.7, 10s. annually.

The parochial schoolmaster's salary is the maximum; and the probable amount of fees paid to him yearly is about L.35. His other emoluments arise from the office of session-clerkship.

Both of the above schools are very efficiently taught. The teachers have adopted the most approved modern methods of instruction.

There are also two Sabbath schools in the parish, which are attended by 70 or 80 children.

Poor.—During the last six years, there have been collected for the poor the following sums:—

For 1836,	.	L.30	6	1
1837,	.	29	5	2
1838,	.	42	13	8½
1839,	.	42	19	4½
1840,	.	66	8	2
1841,	.	45	1	10

During the same period, the following sums were distributed:

For 1836, to 8 regular paupers,	L.34	7	0
1837, to 9 do.	37	11	0
1838, to 7 do.	26	3	0
1839, to 8 do.	37	6	0
1840, to 9 do.	43	19	0
1841, to 9 do.	43	12	1

During the same period, there were distributed to occasional poor the following sums:—

For 1836,	.	L.4	1	10
1837,	.	2	14	8
1838,	.	2	11	7½
1839,	.	2	9	6
1840,	.	0	12	6
1841,	.	2	4	6

There is no legal assessment for the poor.

January 1843.