

## PARISH OF DUN.

PRESBYTERY OF BRECHIN, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS.

THE REV. JOHN EADIE, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—THE name *Dun* seems to be taken from that of the proprietor, who was called Dun of that Ilk. It is said that a person named Erskine married the heiress. But at what time that happened, it is difficult to say; as it is known only by family tradition. Others derive the name from the Gaelic *Dunis*, which signifies a hill or rising ground; and it is, indeed, on a ground pretty much elevated above the river South Esk, or South Water; for *Esk* is said in Gaelic to signify *water*. Its greatest extent is about four miles in length, and as much in breadth; but as it runs out into narrow points to the north-west and south-east, it does not contain more than twelve square miles. There is a small part separated from the rest of the parish by the basin or estuary at Montrose, called the Fort-hill, the land at the end of the bridge, and several houses which belong to Montrose *quoad sacra*. It is bounded on the west by the parish of Brechin; on the east by that of Montrose; on the north by the parishes of Strickathrow and Logie Pert; and on the south by the parishes of Marytown and Kinnaird, which last is now united to Farnell.

*Topographical Appearance.*—Its figure is very irregular. The low lands by the river side, and towards the basin, where the water is kept off by dikes, are clayey and very productive; along the side of the basin by Broomley, Gilrivie, and Tayocks, the land rises more abruptly, and the soil is light and sandy. Leaving the fields along the river and basin, and going north, the land rises gradually into rich fields of black earth, on the farm of Balwyllo and Mains of Dun,—the grass parks about Dun and Langley Park, and the farm of Well-hill, having a southern exposure. In the middle are the farms of Balnillo, Leys of Dun Fordis, Tetherewe, Glenskenno, and Higham, which are good land. To the north of these the

land becomes flattened, wet, and miry, and, except the farm of North Mains and several small places, the greater part of it is under wood. On the north of Balnillo Wood is Dun's Dish, a lake covering about forty acres of land, collected from the adjoining fields and springs for the use of mills.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There is no history of the parish printed or in manuscript; nor are there any historical occurrences worthy of notice.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners are the most noble Marquis of Ailsa; James Cruickshank, Esq. of Langley Park; David Carnegy, Esq. of Craigo; and Patrick Cruickshank, Esq. of Glenskenno.

*Parochial Registers.*—The date of the earliest entry on the parochial register of births and baptisms is the 10th July 1642; of marriages, the 14th September 1646. There are three volumes of these registers, but they do not appear to have been very regularly kept, and the first is scarcely legible. There is also a register of burials in the parish, begun in the year 1777, and continued to the year 1793; but from that time it has been very irregularly kept. The records of the kirk-session begin on the 19th July 1702, and consist of four volumes.

## III.—POPULATION.

In 1801, the population amounted to	651
1811, - - -	680
1821, - - -	605
And in 1831, - - -	514

The recent decrease is said to be owing to a number of cottar-houses, and several other houses that had a few acres of land attached to them, having been taken down. There is no town or village in the parish.

1. Number of families in the parish,	97
of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	88
chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	9
2. Number of unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	5
of unmarried women, including widows, upwards of 45,	27
3. The average number of births yearly for the last seven years,	11
of marriages,	35
4. The number of persons at present under 15 years of age,	169
upwards of 70,	10

There is only one family of independent fortune resident at

present; but there are in the parish four proprietors of land upwards of L. 50 in yearly value.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—There are about 2600 standard imperial acres under cultivation in the parish; besides 230 acres around the houses of Dun and Langley Park, which have been a number of years in grass, and rent from 30s. to 80s. per acre. There are about 550 acres under wood, and about 100 acres of uncultivated moor. There is also a large track of ground covered by the tides that might be embanked; but it is doubtful whether it would yield a fair return.

*Husbandry.*—Several different rotations are practised, according to the quality of the soil. Upon the wet strong low-lying land, a six-shift rotation, namely, 1st, fallow; 2d, wheat; 3d, pease or beans; 4th, barley sown down with grass seeds; 5th, grass generally cut for hay; 6th, oats. Upon a drier class of strong land, likewise a six-shift, 1st, potatoes, or drilled pease or beans; 2d, wheat; 3d, turnips; 4th, barley; 5th, grass, either cut or pastured; 6th, oats. A small part is cropped in a four-shift, 1st, fallow or drilled crop; 2d, a corn crop, sown down with grass seeds; 3d, grass; 4th, oats. A considerable extent of the upper part of the parish is the five-shift, 1st, fallow or drilled green crop; 2d, a corn crop, sown down with grass seeds; 3d and 4th, grass, generally pastured both years; 5th, oats. The farm-houses and steadings are generally in a good state of repair, being chiefly erected by the proprietors. The general duration of leases is for nineteen years; and the proprietors are liberal and kind to their tenantry.

*Breeds of Live Stock.*—The cattle reared are chiefly of the black doddied Angus breed, somewhat resembling the Galloway cattle. They are considered to be of a good kind, growing to a great weight, and in general good feeders.

*Rate of Wages.*—Masons' and carpenters' wages during the summer, are from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per day; and stout labourers' from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 10d.,—all without victuals. Farm-servants are engaged generally for twelve months, at from L. 10 to L. 12, with 6½ bolls meal yearly, and a Scotch pint of sweet milk per day for unmarried men, who are accommodated in *bothies*. The married men with families get nearly the same, with an addition of a house and garden on the farm, and some potatoes. Women-

servants, for house-work, get from L. 5 to L. 6 per annum. Women employed at out-door work get 8d. per day, without victuals. The crop is generally cut by the threave; wheat at 4d. per threave; and other kinds of grain at 3d.

*Fisheries.*—These are the fishing upon the river, as stated in the former Statistical Account, and the fishing on the sands of the basin for mussels for bait. The yearly rent of the former is nearly L. 100, and of the latter is upwards of L. 100.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as far as can be ascertained, is as follows:—

700 quarters wheat at 53s.	-	-	-	L. 1855	0	0
350 quarters pease and beans at 30s.	-	-	-	525	0	0
2450 quarters oats at 21s.	-	-	-	2572	10	0
1500 quarters barley at 30s.	-	-	-	2250	0	0
180 acres hay at 200 stones per acre, at 6d. per stone,	-	-	-	900	0	0
140 acres potatoes at L. 8,	-	-	-	1120	0	0
10 acres turnips sold to feed cows in town, at L. 9,	-	-	-	90	0	0
278 acres consumed on the farms, at L. 4,	-	-	-	1080	0	0
				<u>L. 10892</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situated within the Marquis of Ailsa's enclosures, is very convenient for the greater part of the population, and about two or three miles from the extremities of the parish. It is said to have been a chapel belonging to the family of Dun, the mansion-house of the family having been built very near to the churchyard. The roof and ceiling is so much decayed, that it is proposed at present to have the church renewed.\* It affords accommodation to nearly 400 persons. There are no free sittings; but there are several pews, belonging to the session, let yearly for a very small sum.

It is not known when the oldest part of the manse was built; but an addition of two rooms was made to it about fourteen years ago. Some repairs in the manse and offices, and also some additions to the offices, were made in 1828.

The extent of the glebe is betwixt five and six acres of very good land, which may be valued at L. 20 a-year. The amount of stipend is L. 150 yearly, including L. 33, 8s. 5d. from Government. There are about 100 families, and 260 persons, attending the Established

\* A new church has been built since the above was written.

church. There are 8 persons attending the nearest chapels of Dissenters and Seceders; 6 attending the Episcopalian chapel in Montrose. Divine service at the Established church is generally well attended. The average number of communicants at the Established church is 225.

*Education.*—The total number of schools in the parish is three,—one parochial and two unendowed. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is the maximum, and the school-fees amount to about L. 12 yearly. The parochial schoolmaster has the legal accommodation. The general expense of education is 3s. per quarter for reading; 4s. for reading and writing; and 5s. for reading, writing, and arithmetic. There are no persons above six years of age who cannot either read or write. The people in general are very much alive to the benefits of education, and are very anxious to have their children well instructed in all the useful branches.

*Library.*—There is a small parochial library, mostly of religious books, of which the people are very fond.

*Savings Bank.*—There is a savings bank in the parish, which was instituted on the 8th June 1818. The average amount deposited yearly, from 1818 to 1830, is L. 50, 14s. 4½d., and withdrawn, L. 38, 1s. 5¼d. The investments are generally made by the labouring class of people.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is eleven, and the average sum allotted to each, yearly, is nearly L. 3. There are also various sums given to persons who are occasionally in difficulty, before they are placed regularly upon the poors' roll. The heritors, according to their valued rent, pay for the keeping of a lunatic, belonging to the parish, in the Montrose asylum, at the rate of L. 12; and for another person at the rate of L. 10 yearly. The average amount from collections at the church is L. 26; interest of money, L. 11; seat-rents, mortcloth, &c. L. 2. There is little disposition among the poor to refrain from seeking parochial relief, and they do not consider it degrading.

*Fairs.*—Two fairs used to be held in the parish on Dun's Muir,—the first in May, on the Tuesday before the first Wednesday, old style; the second in June, third Wednesday. But last season they were removed to a piece of waste ground about a mile to the north, on the side of the Strickathrow road on the estate of Dun, and in the parish of Logie Pert.

*Inns, &c.*—There is on the turnpike road a toll-house and an alehouse, where spirituous liquors are sold; they are frequented chiefly by the people travelling the turnpike road, but very seldom by the people of this parish.

*Fuel.*—English coal, procured at the shore in Montrose, from 1s. to 1s. 3d. per barrel, is the fuel generally used.

*January 1833.*