

# PARISH OF DUNNICHEN.

PRESBYTERY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS.

THE REV. JAMES HEADRICK, MINISTER.

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name and Boundaries.*—SOME difference of opinion exists concerning the origin of the name *Dunnichen*. Most people derive it from Nechtan, a Pictish chieftain, who is said to have resided in the parish. But although it has been the uniform practice of the Gael to name persons from their place of residence, they never named places from persons. I am, therefore, disposed to think that *Dunnichen* is a corruption of *Dun-Achan*, the hill or fort of the valley. This is exactly descriptive of the hill of *Dunnichen*, which, on the north, looks down on the lochs of *Rescobie* and *Balgaies*; towards the east, upon the whole valley of the *Lunan*; towards the west, upon *Forfar* and its contiguous loch, and through *Strathmore*, until the view is bounded by *Shehallien* and the *Perthshire Grampians*. From the west of this hill the water flows down through *Strathmore*, and from the east it flows towards the *Lunan* and *Lunan Bay*. From the south side of the hill a low shoulder is projected, on which there once stood a fort built with dry stone, without any cement. It is agreed at all hands that the parish derived its name from this fort or castle. The foundation of a similar fort is still visible on the hill of *Dunbarrow*, a detached part of this parish.

The parish consists of three estates or properties, detached from each other; and in whole contains 4024 Scotch acres.

*Topographical Appearances.*—There are no elevations in this parish which can claim the name of mountains. The hill of *Dunnichen* is the most elevated part; its highest pinnacle was ascertained to be 800 feet above the level of the sea. This hill, with a few exceptions, is covered with soil, and is planted or cultivated to its summit. The hill of *Dunbarrow* may be about 700 feet above the sea. *Dunnichen House*, situated near the

foot of the southern slope of Dunnichen Hill, is the most northern house of the parish, and was ascertained to be 400 feet above the sea, and distant from the sea, at Arbroath, about ten miles. The medium elevation of the whole parish may be about 360 feet above the sea level. The lands of Dunnichen consist of gentle undulations or ridges running from west to east, their greatest and most rapid descent being towards Vinney Water on the south. The lands of Tulloes have a very gentle rise from Vinney Water to the summit of the ridge which separates them from Carmyllie on the south; and this ridge may be about 600 feet above the sea. The lands of Dunbarrow rise in all directions towards the hill, their steepest acclivity being towards the north-west.

*Meteorology.*—In general, the climate is very similar to that which prevails over a great part of the east of Scotland. The trees, where fully exposed, lean somewhat towards the north-east, showing the prevailing winds to be from the south-west. During spring, and sometimes even in summer, chilling blasts from the east and north-east prevail, with their usual injurious effects: and they are often accompanied by hazy mist, here named *eastern haar*.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—Excepting where they have been laid open by quarries, and a few juttings of whinstone rocks, the strata are uniformly covered by a considerable depth of soil. Sandstone, or freestone, constitutes the great body of our solid strata. These are sometimes seen to alternate with beds of indurated clay, which consist of thin plates of a whitish gray, reddish, or bluish colour, here known by the name of cam-stone, because they are used for writing on slates, and, when pounded, are used for whitening hearths, stairs, &c. These clay strata are sometimes penetrated by the roots of plants, of a blackish colour; and sometimes impressions of plants, and of their leaves, are seen upon the surfaces of their plates. Numerous fragments of what appears to have been rushes, of a bluish-green colour, appear in some of these indurated clay strata. Some of the freestone beds are subdivisible into plates of various thickness, the surfaces of which exhibit woody fibres, and have a striking resemblance to polished boards of wainscot. Although our sandstone beds be intersected by numerous fissures, which subdivide them into masses which more or less affect a parallelopiped form, having two opposite angles acute, and the other two obtuse; they are nowhere seen to be intersected by veins of trap or whinstone, or of any other

material. I once picked up a few fragments of heavy spar, some of which were tinged with a green colour from copper, on the southern declivity of the highest pinnacle of Dunnichen Hill, which must have come from a vein of that material which is concealed by the soil. But the greatest metallic repositories in the world have been discovered by accident, or exposed to view by streams of water. For this purpose, in Cornwall and other places, they conduct streams of water artificially across the declivity of the mountains.

The sandstone in the castle quarry of Dunnichen dips to the north about five feet in twenty-four, making an angle with the horizon of  $12^{\circ}$ . This quarry furnishes excellent mill-stones for grinding corn. It also furnishes stones of large dimensions, which can be easily dressed and polished immediately after they are raised, but if allowed to remain some time, no tool can penetrate them. In some of its beds there are rounded pebbles of jasper, quartz and agate, interspersed. The sandstone of Tulloes dips to the south-east four feet eight inches in twenty-four, making an angle with the horizon of  $11^{\circ}$ . Our sandstone, or freestone, is generally of a grayish-white colour. Some of it inclines to blue.

Where the trap or whinstone rocks jut above the surface, they appear to be a confused mass, without any stratification or regular arrangement of parts. But where they have been dug into, they are found to be as regularly stratified as the sandstone on which they rest, and by which they are covered towards the dip. On the southern face of the hill of Dunnichen, there are a few jutting rocks of trap, some of which is fatiscient, as it decomposes in concentric scales. Other parts have numerous particles of steatites, of a dirty yellowish-white colour, interspersed, and, from the resemblance to that animal, have obtained the name of toad-stone. On the farm of Pinkerton, there is a confused very porous stratum of trap covering a freestone quarry. On the farm of Broadlea, there is another jutting rock of that species of trap which is called *greenstone*. This rock has of late been much quarried for stones to mend the roads, and is found to be composed of several very regular strata, each of which is made up of blocks of various dimensions, of which some affect the rude columnar form. These strata dip to the north-east at the rate of nine feet in twenty-four, and make an angle with the horizon of  $21^{\circ}$ . All the visible rocks of the hill of Dum-

barrow are trap; and these include all the visible trap rocks in this parish.

A thin silicious incrustation sometimes intersects our trap rocks. In other cases there are hollows lined with a silicious incrustation, from which beautiful rock crystals project towards the centre of the hollow.

On the summit and sides of the hill of Dunnichen there are several large loose masses of mica-slate and granite. Large granite stones, which interrupted the plough, were dug up some years ago, on the farm of Broadlea. A large mass of granite was lately blasted to the north of Letham; and many stones of these kinds occur, or have been discovered, in various parts of the parish, all more or less rounded by attrition. There being no rock of these stones nearer than the Grampians, we are puzzled to account for their getting into their present position. In the beautiful mass of granite that was blasted near Letham, I observed fragments of dark-blue whinstone interspersed in the body of the stone.

The quality of our soils may be inferred from that of the rocks which they cover, and from whose decomposition they have been formed. A large sheet of good soil slopes from the south side of Dunnichen Hill. In the upper part, this soil is too shallow, and too near the rock. It deepens as it descends, and may be described as a friable loam, in which sand predominates. It seems to have been made up of particles washed down from the hill above. In the different ridges of the parish, where the soil is primary, the subsoil is always tenacious, or impervious to moisture. Of course it is apt to throw up rushes, *Sphagnum palustre*, and other moss-plants. This sort of soil prevails on the summit of those ridges of which the estate of Dunnichen is composed. The only exception is that of soils formed from the decomposition of trap-rocks, which are always fertile, provided they be of sufficient depth. On the estate of Tulloes, the lower part is an alluvial haugh soil, and becomes less fertile as you advance to the higher grounds. The same observation applies to the estate of Dunbarrow, which is least fertile at the higher parts, where the soil is primary, but becomes deeper and more fertile as we descend. In a word, the soils of this parish may be ranked under two classes,—friable loams, in which sand predominates; and friable clays, with a retentive subsoil. Most of the stones which were injurious to agriculture have been removed to make drains, mend the roads,

and for other purposes: some operations of these kinds are, however, still necessary.

*Hydrography.*—There is a small chalybeate spring on the north side of the drain leading from the loch of Dunnichen; from which some people have thought they found relief in stomach complaints. A much more copious spring of the same quality, although not so strongly impregnated, has its fountain head on the north-west corner of Dumbarrow, although it breaks out in the parish of Kirkden.

The only loch in the parish is what is commonly called the Mire of Dunnichen. This occupies a space of about fifty acres, and has been partially drained for marl, and converted into pasture land. But, to render the improvement effectual, the drain would require to be made five or six feet deeper, and concealed drains thrown out on each side of it, to take off springs which rise from different parts of its bottom.

The only running-water in the parish is the small rivulet of Vinney Water, which rises in the parish of Forfar, from what was the loch of Lower, but is now completely drained, and converted into fertile land. This rivulet, after receiving some smaller streams in its progress, joins Lunan Water near Pitmuies, in the parish of Kirkden.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Antiquities.*—The stones of the fort or castle, before referred to, have been removed to build fences; and its area has been nearly obliterated by a quarry. On its floor was found a thick bed of wood ashes, mixed with numerous bones, which seem to have belonged to the animals on which the inhabitants fed. In one place there is said to have been found a number of small golden bullets, which seem to have been the current coin of the times when they were formed.

A confused tradition prevails of a great battle having been fought on the East Mains of Dunnichen, between Lothus King of the Picts, or his son Modred, and Arthur King of the Britons, in which that hero of romance was slain. Buchanan, no doubt, places the scene of that battle upon the banks of the Humber, in England. But it is probable that some battle had been fought here; for, a good many years ago, on the East Mains of Dunnichen, there was turned up with the plough a large flat stone, on which is cut a rude outline of an armed warrior's head and shoulders; and not many years ago, the plough also uncovered some graves on another part of the same farm. These graves consisted of flat stones on all

sides. They were filled with human bones, and urns of red clay, with rude ornaments upon them; the urns being filled with whitish-gray ashes. By exposure to the air, the bones and the urns mouldered into dust.

In a round gravel knoll near the Den of Letham, a considerable number of similar graves was found. The graves were situated in a thick bed of fine sand, which intersected the knoll; and were constructed every way similar to the former. They contained human bones, which seem to have been crammed together without much regard to arrangement. The urns with their ashes were every way similar to the former. The neck-bones of some were adorned with strings of beads. These were of a beautiful glossy black colour, neatly perforated longitudinally, and strung together by the fibres of animals. They were of an oval figure; large and small ones were arranged alternately; the large ones flat on the two opposite surfaces, the small ones round. They seemed to consist of ebony, or of some fine-grained species of wood, which had been charred, and then finely polished. On keeping them some time, they split into plates, and the woody fibres separated. The bones also, and the urns, mouldered into dust. In some of these graves rusty daggers were found, which fell in pieces by handling. It appears the bodies had been first burnt, as the ashes contained numerous particles of charcoal of wood.

*Land-owners.*—The parish, as formerly stated, is divided into three properties, namely, Dunnichen, Tulloes, and Dumbarrow. James Hawkins, Esq. advocate, is heir-apparent to the estate of Dunnichen. He resides at Dunnichen House, and is the only residing heritor. Tulloes belongs to John Oughterlony, Esq. of Guynd. Dumbarrow belongs to Alexander Lyall, Esq. of Gardyne.

*Eminent Persons.*—The only person of eminence we ever heard of connected with the parish, is the late George Dempster, Esq. who was many years member of Parliament for the Forfar, Dundee, &c. district of burghs; but his character and conduct are too well known to require any illustration.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population, as taken by the Government census, was

In the year 1801,	-	-	1049
1811,	-	-	1238
1821,	-	-	1433
1831,	-	-	1513

In the census of 1831, there were found in the parish 331 inha-

bited houses. Families, 386; whereof 88 are chiefly engaged in agriculture, and 258 in trade, manufactures, and handicraft. Houses building, 1; houses uninhabited, 12. The latter are chiefly upon the estate of Tulloes, as the proprietor has taken great part of that estate into his own hands.

The following is a list of males and females born, and registered in the parish books, during the 13 years, from 1st January 1819 to 1st January 1832.

	Males.	Females.	Sum.		Males.	Females.	Sum.
1819,	- 17	16	33	1827,	- 15	18	33
1820,	- 16	16	32	1828,	- 20	13	33
1821,	- 21	16	37	1829,	- 28	12	40
1822,	- 21	8	29	1830,	- 20	20	40
1823,	- 19	17	36	1831,	- 16	17	33
1824,	- 14	13	27				
1825,	- 16	16	32		237	201	438
1826,	- 14	19	33				

From this table it appears, that, although the number of female births sometimes equals, and sometimes exceeds, that of males, yet, in a course of thirteen years, the male births exceed those of females by thirty-six. Had the comparison been carried through a greater number of years, the excess would have been much greater. We believe it to be a fact over all the world, that the number of males born always exceeds that of females. But, on the other hand, during the census 1831, there were living in the parish 712 males and 801 females,—the excess in the number of females over that of males being 89. To account for this, it may be observed, that some of our young men went to the army and navy, and never returned; some went to the merchant service in distant ports; some have found employment in distant parts of the country; and some have lately emigrated to America, carrying no females with them. Thus, as men are engaged in more hazardous employments than women, it seems to be the intention of Divine Providence to provide for this by the superior number born.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture and Rural Economy.*

The number of Scotch acres cultivated or occasionally in tillage is	3112
Uncultivated,	494
That might be cultivated or planted,	494
Under wood,	414

The system which chiefly prevails here is what is called the al-

ternate, which consists of interposing a green crop, or naked fallow, between every two corn crops. At first breaking up from lea, oats are sown; then turnips and potatoes drilled; next barley, with ryegrass and clover; next pasture, for one or more years. Sometimes, when the land is in very good heart, two or more crops of oats are taken at first breaking up. Sometimes wheat is sown after potatoes, and sometimes on clover-lea, with addition of manure: if after potatoes, or naked fallow, the grass seeds are always sown along with it. But for some years past the seasons have been so unfavourable at the critical time of flowering and fructifying, and the wheat has been so much destroyed by the fly, that the cultivation of this grain has been almost abandoned, and barley substituted in its place. Formerly wheat was always sown after naked fallow; and a part sometimes after potatoes or clover lea. Now, with wheat, the extent of naked fallow is very much reduced, and barley is sown upon the potatoe and turnip land, which receives all the manure. Of late the turnip husbandry has been extended by bone dust, which raises a good crop on light sandy ground, but does not seem to succeed so well on stiff clays. The store-masters of the Grampians send down their flocks of sheep to feed on these turnips during winter, and they are confined to three drills at a time by means of flakes. They prefer these wooden flakes to nets, because the sheep being of the horned black-faced breed, their horns might get entangled in the nets, and tear them in pieces. The kinds of turnips cultivated here are the globe, the green and red-tops, or rather a mixture of all. A portion of the yellow turnip is in every field; but, unless the seeds themselves were to be raised, they seldom can be got unmixed. Every farmer has also a few drills of curly kail in his turnip field. The grains cultivated are the potatoe-oat, of which they frequently change the seed; the two-rowed barley; the white Essex wheat, of which they receive frequent change of seed from London or the Carse of Gowrie; gray peas in some places,—drilled beans having been tried, but not found to succeed. Some farmers also sow portions of vetches, as green fodder for their live stock. Various kinds of potatoes have prevailed here at different times; but the kinds most in vogue at present are the large globular red, and the small American of a white colour.

Shell marl from the Loch of Restenneth, which belongs to the estate of Dunnichen, although in the parish of Forfar, has been a powerful instrument of improvement in this quarter. It is com-

monly applied in compost with earth and dung to turnips or to wheat when sown upon raked fallow, or upon hay-stubble.

The ploughmen here are very expert, and some of them have been carried to Ireland, and other distant places. Some of them are married, and live in cottages annexed to the farm-house. But most of them are unmarried, and live in what are called *bothies*, contiguous to the farm-house. Each receives a certain allowance of meal and milk, potatoes and other articles, besides wages, which vary from L. 10 to L. 15 or L. 20, according to circumstances. The reaping is mostly performed by threaving, but partly by the scythe. Much of the estate of Dunnichen is but one step removed from the runrig, or rig and rennel system, which still prevails in some parts of the Highlands. However, as leases fall, it is now in the course of being lotting into separate farms, and commodious farm-offices are building.

The two-horse plough, of Small's construction, is universally in use. The cattle, and sometimes also the horses, are fed on turnips during winter, along with straw or other fodder. Sometimes, also, they get a feed of yams or other potatoes; but the surplus of potatoes generally goes to feed pigs.

There are two corn-mills upon the estate of Dunnichen, at Craichy and Letham; the latter also fabricates pot-barley. There is also a corn-mill at Dumbarrow. There are four thrashing-machines at Dumbarrow, two of which are moved by water, one by horses, and one by wind. There are two on the estate of Tulloes, one moved by horses, the other by water. On the estate of Dunnichen there are seven thrashing-machines, one moved by water, the rest by horses,—in all thirteen in the parish.

*Breeds of Live Stock.*—There are no sheep kept in the parish. The kind of cattle which most generally prevails is the Galloway breed, sometimes here called *humlies*, because they have no horns. Although this breed has been much cultivated in Galloway, it does not seem to be peculiar to that district; for I have seen individuals without horns among the middle-horned breeds in various parts of the Highlands and Isles. There are also a very few of the middle-horned breed of Fife extraction, and still fewer of the short-horned or Tees-water breed. The milch cows here, during the best of the season, yield from twelve to fourteen Scotch pints of milk a-day. The milk is generally skimmed, the cream made into butter, and the milk into skimmed-milk cheese. The cattle that are put to pasture in

grass-parks are of all descriptions, and are bought at the neighbouring fairs.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount and value of raw produce raised yearly, on an average of the last five years, is as follows:—

1240 acres of corn and other grains of all kinds, valued at an average of L. 7 per Scotch acre,	L. 8680	0	0
465 acres of potatoes, turnips, and other green crop, valued at L. 10 per acre,	4650	0	0
150 acres of summer fallow,			
465 acres of hay, valued at L. 6 per acre,	2790	0	0
792 acres of pasture, valued at L. 2 per acre,	1584	0	0
988 acres of uncultivated land at 5s. per acre,	247	0	0
414 acres of wood, thinnings of which valued at,	20	0	0
Produce of quarries,	20	0	0
Dairy produce,	399	10	0
Sales of live stock annually,	1240	0	0
Gross amount of value,	L. 19680	10	0

*Manufactures.*—The principal, indeed the only staple manufacture of the parish, is the weaving of coarse linens, called Osnaburghs. Along with this, some occasional work is done in sheeting and shirting, but chiefly for private use. Many of the families engaged in this work have small farms, held either in lease or feu, which they cultivate at their leisure hours. There is a spinning-mill in the Den of Letham, moved by the water of Vinney, for spinning lint and tow into yarn. This mill is furnished with a steam-engine to move the machinery when the water is deficient. But I understand they have had no occasion to have recourse to steam these several years past. Formerly, spinning was the peculiar province of the women. But since the spinning-mills have become so numerous, they have betaken themselves to weaving, and there are nearly as many women now employed at the loom as men. Although some attempts have been made to introduce power-looms, they have not been found to answer for the coarse fabrics of this district. All weaving is done by the piece. At present, every person who is willing to work finds employment. There is, however, a general complaint of the lowness of wages, although none of the highness of provisions.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Towns, &c.*—The principal village in the parish is Letham, which, with its adjuncts, contains upwards of 900 souls. It was laid out on a very regular plan by the late Mr Dempster, and is yearly increasing. There are two markets here for all kinds of

bestial, hiring of servants, &c. There is a linen-hall in this village, which is now converted into a school-room.\*

North of Letham there is a long straggling village called Drummietermon, chiefly inhabited by small farmers, most of whom are weavers. There are also small villages at Bouriefad, at Craichy, Cotton of Lownie, and Kirkton of Dunnichen.

To the west of Dunnichen there is another straggling village, called Cotton of Lownie, chiefly inhabited by small farmers, most of whom are also weavers.

In the Kirkton of Dunnichen an annual fair is held on the third Wednesday of March, Old Style. This is said to have been a great market in former times, and was held with continuation of days. Now very little business is done there; and only a few idle people assemble at it for amusement.

*Means of Communication.*—The old roads of this parish are generally very ill contrived. The principal road upon the estate of Dunnichen is too narrow, and is always miry in wet weather. A new toll road from Dundee to Brechin has long been in contemplation, which will pass through Letham. This road has been completed in some places to the northward, and has been already formed in so far as it passes through the estate of Dunnichen. It cannot fail to be of great advantage to this district, by opening an easy communication with the distinguished port of Dundee. There are only four bridges in the parish, each of one arch.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The earliest place of worship in the parish was situated in the shallow lake, or Mire of Dunnichen, on what has some appearance of having been an artificial island, and of which some of the foundations are still visible. A deep ditch had separated it from the solid land; and the ditch seems to have been crossed by a draw-bridge. This place obtained the name of St Cowland's Chapel. After William the Lion had granted all the lands annexed to Red Castle, and many others, to the monastery of Arbroath, of which he was the founder, it appears that this fraternity converted Cowland's Chapel into a parish church, and constituted all their lands in this quarter into a parish annexed to this church. There not being a sufficient quantity of produce to afford a stipend to a clergyman, farm-bolls and feu-duties were allotted from the cultivated lands on Lunan Water for his support. †

\* At a fair which was held here on a Saturday in 1832, the Sabbath was largely encroached upon, and on that morning an atrocious murder was committed. The offender having pled culpable homicide, was sentenced to one year's imprisonment.

† A circumstance may be mentioned that shows the state of agriculture in these

The present church is situated on a rising ground at the lower part of the kirk-town of Dunnichen. It is on the outside of the parish,—there being only three inhabited houses, (of which the mansion-house of Dunnichen is one,) near to it on the north. This church was built from the foundation in 1802, but in a very imperfect manner. It is in a damp situation, was covered with heavy sand-stone flags, and the cupples, being of young unseasoned wood, were so completely rotten, that in 1817, it became necessary to furnish it with a new roof, covered with blue slates. It can accommodate about 500 sitters, and is lotted into three divisions, corresponding to the valuation in the county books of the three estates in the parish. Each proprietor subdivides his portion of the church among his tenants. Since the people of Kirkden have got a spacious and elegant new church in the neighbourhood of Letham, most of these people have got accommodation there. There are no free sittings in the church; and the number of communicants always somewhat exceeds 500.

The old manse was situated immediately under the church-yard, which overtopped its eaves. After a long and expensive litigation before the Court of Session, a new manse and offices were built in a dry and well-aired situation in 1814–15; but, as the cheapest estimate was accepted, and no proper inspector was appointed, every thing was done in the most insufficient manner, and the undertakers were discharged before the work was finished. A more effectual repair of the offices was agreed upon last spring; but it has been delayed from various causes, until they are in danger of falling down.

There were two adjudications of a glebe by the presbytery. The first allotted four acres of arable or tilled land, with two acres of meadow pasture, besides the garden and stance of manse and offices, which are half an acre. There were included some patches which never had been tilled, but which have since been trenched and

times. Forty-eight bolls of oats, payable to the parson of Dunnichen, were afterwards exchanged for 19½ bolls of meal. This shows that black oats were then cultivated on the best of the monastic lands, as they are in some parts of the Highlands and Isles to this day, and of which two bolls only yield one boll of meal. The meal being more portable, it was reckoned a just equivalent for the oats, after paying the mill dues. Having thus provided what was reckoned a sufficient stipend for the minister of Dunnichen, these monks were allowed to alienate the lands of Dunnichen, *cum decimis inclusis*. But if these bolls should be evicted, (and part of them has been evicted to augment the stipend of the minister of the parish,) it may become a question at law, whether recourse may not be competent upon the teinds of Dunnichen.

brought into cultivation. The next adjudication was for straightening marches and inclosing. Former ministers also had a right of pasturing their cattle on the hill of Dunnichen, in name of turf and divot land, which was taken from them without such an equivalent as is granted in other cases in this country. The minister has also a right to cast peats in the moss of Dunnichen. There was formerly a road up to the church, passing through the glebe, which, during a vacancy, was shut, and along with it a very valuable part of the grass glebe was taken off. The consequence is, that there is no road to the remainder of the grass glebe but through the arable ground, which occasions so much destruction of the crops, that the glebe is of little value. Several years ago the General Assembly granted warrant to prosecute the redress of these grievances from the funds of the church; but the present incumbent has waited, though in vain, expecting to get them amicably settled.

The only stipend payable from the parish is from the estate of Dumbarrow,—6½ b. bear, 24 b. 6 p. oatmeal, and 18s. vicarage; and from the estate of Dunnichen L. 2, 16s. 4d. vicarage. All the rest of the stipend is paid by Lord Panmure and other proprietors of land which belonged to the monastery of Arbroath: also by the Earl of Strathmore. By the 50th Geo. III., L. 22, 5s. 1d. were added to raise the stipend to L. 150; but when the victual fell much lower than was established by that act, in cheap years the stipend hardly exceeded L. 100. To remedy this, by the 5th Geo. IV., L. 15, 17s. 7d. were added, which makes the whole allowance from Government amount to L. 38, 2s. 8d. From this it can easily be seen, that, when the fiars' prices exceed the valuation of that act, the stipend proportionally exceeds L. 150; but when the fiars are below that valuation, which is the case at present, and likely to continue, the value of the stipend is proportionally below L. 150.

In this parish there is a meeting-house belonging to the sect of Congregationalists. The hall of Letham also is used as a place of public worship by a congregation of Seceders. The preacher in the latter is paid partly from collections, partly from their synod fund: the other is also paid partly from collections, and partly from a fund established by the adherents of his sect.

Some time ago, Mr James Hawkins, advocate, heir apparent of the estate of Dunnichen, became a convert to the famous Row heresy, which he preached in this parish, in a chapel which he himself built. The chapel has been for some time vacant: but it is said

he is in quest of a person of his own sentiments, to be established in it as a settled minister. In this he has not yet succeeded.

Upon the whole, however, the parish church is very well attended. The number of persons frequenting the chapel of the Congregationalists, and who reside in this parish, amounts to 20. Of Seceders, there are probably about 60 individuals in the parish.—All the rest of the parishioners adhere to the established church.

*Education.*—The parochial school is situated at Craichy. The original object of placing it there was to accommodate the people on the estate of Tulloes. But these people being mostly removed, there are few children within reach of the school. The teacher has enjoyed a complete university education, and is well qualified in classical literature, in arithmetic, algebra, and the higher branches of calculation; also in mathematics, and their application to practical purposes. He sometimes has a scholar or two in Latin, but seldom has any demand for the higher branches of education. The dwelling-house consists of only two apartments, and the school-room has a cold damp floor, which is very uncomfortable for children in winter. The number of scholars is sometimes about 30, but is often below that number. The salary is the maximum. The fees are the lowest allowed in country schools, namely, 2s. 6d. a quarter for beginners; 3s. for those advanced to writing; and 4s. for those learning arithmetic. The amount of school fees actually received is very various, and in a course of years may average from L. 5 to L. 6 per annum. The teacher is also session-clerk, at a salary of L. 2, 7s.: but he gives L. 2 of that to the precentor, and receives only such perquisites as accrue. He is also collector of the parish road-money, for which his remuneration is very trifling.

Since the village of Letham began to advance in population, there has always been a school kept there. There was also a dwelling-house built for him by subscription, which the feuars of Letham took from him without legal authority. Mr Millar, connected with the Secession, is their present teacher. The same branches are taught, and the same fees are charged, as in the parish school. The number of scholars varies from 85 to 105. They are not all from this parish, but partly from the neighbouring parishes of Rescobie and Kirkden, which are contiguous to Letham.

There is another private school at the bridge of Dumbarrow, taught by a Mr Dickeson, who belongs to our church. The

same branches are taught, and the same fees paid, as in other schools. The people there have built a commodious house and school-room for the teacher. I cannot learn whether they afford any salary. The number of scholars varies from 65 to 85. They are not all from the district of Dumbarrow, but a considerable proportion of them from the neighbouring parishes of Kirkden and Carmyllie.

*Library.*—We have a library at Letham, containing from 400 to 500 volumes. These treat of religion and morality; of civil history, especially that of our own country; of agriculture; natural history; and various branches of the mechanical sciences. This library was made up, partly by donations of books from various individuals, partly by annual subscriptions of persons in this parish, and in those parts of the neighbouring parishes of Kirkden and Rescobie, which are contiguous to Letham, partly also from collections in the churches of Dunnichen and Kirkden.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—It appears from the session books, that there were L. 100 at one time accumulated for the use of the poor. But it also appears, that when times of distress occurred, the heritors would give nothing until this stock was exhausted. For a considerable time, the funds arising from collections, mortcloth dues, proclamation of banns, and fines, amounted to from L. 45 to L. 48 per annum, by which the session contrived to support the poor, with a little aid, in times of distress, from the late Mr Dempster. At last, on the occasion of its being found necessary to send to the lunatic asylum at Dundee a deranged woman whose maintenance and clothing cost about L. 20 per annum, this sum was raised by subscriptions; which mode of collecting continued several years. It was afterwards found necessary to establish an assessment, since which time the collections have fallen very much off. The assessment was the more necessary, as we were obliged to send another person to the Asylum at Dundee. Meanwhile the session, on account of certain calumnies that were raised against them, were induced to resign the active management of the poor, which is now vested in a committee appointed by the heritors. Some of the poor receive 1s. or a peck of meal, a week; one receives 2s. and another family 3s. With the exception of a few individuals, they are very averse to come upon the poors' funds.

The following is an account of the receipts and expenditure of

poor's money, from 1st January 1832, to 31st December same year :

Collections in the church,	-	-	-	-	-	L. 9	9	1½
From Board of Health,	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	7½
Mortcloths,	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	6
Proclamations of banns,	-	-	-	-	-	0	17	0
						<hr/>		
						L. 15	16	3
To which add,								
Assessment of 2d April 1832,	-	-	-	-	-	60	0	0
Do. of 1st October 1832,	-	-	-	-	-	40	0	0
Collections received by the managers of the poor,	-	-	-	-	-	4	7	10
From Mary Lownie's roup,	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	0
						<hr/>		
Sum raised,	-	-	-	-	-	L. 121	12	3
Expenditure of the kirk-session from 1st January 1832, to 31st December same year,	-	-	-	-	-	L. 11	13	0½
Expended by committee of managers,	-	-	-	-	-	64	18	3
To collector of assessment,	-	-	-	-	-	2	0	0
To asylum, Dundee, for two lunatics,	-	-	-	-	-	33	10	11
						<hr/>		
Sum expended,	-	-	-	-	-	L. 112	2	2½
						<hr/>		
Balance remaining,	-	-	-	-	-	L. 9	9	11½

*Alehouses.*—There is a general complaint that the public houses in the parish are too numerous; but the great scarcity of money seems to prevent them from having any sensible effect upon the morals of the people.

*Fuel.*—The fuel chiefly used here is English coals, which the farmers or their servants bring from Arbroath or Dundee.

*December 1833.*