

PARISH OF TANNADICE.

PRESBYTERY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNES.

THE REV. J. BUIST, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name and Boundaries.—THE name of this parish was formerly spelt Tannadyse; but in more modern times it is spelt Tannadice. Both are obviously resolvable into *Taynatas*, a Gaelic word, which signifies “a low warm green plat upon the water.” A better description could not be given in any number of words, of the low sheltered bottom, situated on the South Esk, on which the church, manse, and kirk-town or village stand. But although peculiarly applicable to these, it is not so to much of the rest of the parish, which is in the form of an obtuse-angled triangle; the side subtending the obtuse angle, which is from 11 to 12 miles long, separating on the E. and N. E. the parish of Tannadice from those of Careston, Fern, and Navar; and the sides which contain the obtuse angle, separating Tannadice on the S. E., S. W. and N. W. from the parishes of Aberlemno, Oathlaw, Kirriemuir, and Corthachy. The boundary lines contain not less than 60 square miles of surface, or 38,400 imperial acres. The longitude of the parish is about two degrees east, and its latitude forty degrees north.

Topographical Appearances.—From the S. E. point of the triangle, the surface of the parish gradually rises in undulating ridges to the foot of the Grampians. Of these, the most elevated is called St Arnold's seat, which is nearly 500 feet higher than the parish church, and not less than 800 above the level of the sea. Nothing of the history of this saint is known, nor is any reason assigned for his resting on this lofty eminence, surmounted by a large cairn. The view from this height extends to the Scottish capital,—having the Pentland and Lammermuir hills in the back ground, with much varied and interesting scenery intervening.

Hydrography.—There are two beautiful streams in the parish, the one called the South Esk, the other, the Noran, on whose banks a showy house and court of offices were lately erected, and

from their situation called Noranside. The former of these arises from Loch Esk, in the parish of Clova, about twenty miles above the kirk of Tannadice; within which parish the latter also arises; and both unite at the south-east angle of the parish. The course and quantity of water of the former are treble that of the latter. Both afford excellent amusement to anglers; but it is only in the Esk that salmon is found, and that in quantities so inconsiderable that no one has appropriated them. Mussels may be found in the Esk; but neither so numerous nor valuable as they are reported to have formerly been, when many of them were annually collected for sake of the pearls of uncommon size which they contained.

Geology.—A dike of whinstone rock runs from east to west the whole breadth of the parish. No other stone appears on the south of this dike; but close to it, and on the north, there lies a reddish coarse sandstone, which is quarried at various places, and fit for different purposes, particularly for building dikes. This stone gradually grows darker in the colour, till it reaches nearly the summit of the lower Grampian ridge, where blue slates are found; but these are small, and considerably warped,—circumstances which, together with the ease and abundance with which gray slates can be got, prevent the blue from being much quarried. This vein appears to be a continuation of that which originates at Johnshaven, in the Mearns, and terminates at Easdale, in Argyleshire, and is advantageously quarried in the neighbourhood of Dunkeld, Newtyle, and other places.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Antiquities.—Three conical tumuli called Laws have in this parish been levelled, and the ground on which they stood cultivated within these few years. In these tumuli, coarse earthen pots or urns were found, protected and surrounded by six flat square stones, and containing a quantity of black ashes, probably the remains of the illustrious dead; while the remains of the less eminent seem to have been deposited in, and covered by the same number of stones, called coffins, but without any urns or ashes, or accumulations of earth. Perhaps the bodies of the former were burned, while those of the latter were not so honoured.

Modern Buildings.—Downiepark is a splendid mansion, and elegantly furnished. It was erected by the late Lieutenant-Colonel Rattray of the Bengal artillery, and is occasionally inhabited by his widow, the liferentrix of this and his other property. This house has, on the north, a near view of the towering summits of the

lower Grampain range, covered with native heath, or clothed with thriving larch, lately planted by the Earl of Airlie; and nearer still, the castles of Cortachy and Innerquharity, with their policies of aged wood, the South Esk winding amongst them its dark, troubled, and noisy way to the ocean.—About two miles farther down the stream, stands the house of Inshewan, very lately built by its present worthy occupant, John Ogilvy, Esq. who constantly resides there with his family. On the north of this house is a moor lately planted, which promises soon to become a great ornament, and to afford much shelter.—About four miles still farther down, stands the house of Tannadice, built about thirty years ago by Charles Ogilvy, Esq. who acted about twenty years as a surgeon in the East India Company's Service. It has in front, the Esk, with a bridge over it of three arches, and the castle and hill of Finhaven, and is surrounded by young planting of the proprietor's own raising.—Nearly opposite, and on the other side of the water, is the house of Whitewell, the property of — Gemmel, Esq. which he inherits from a paternal grandfather. There are also the houses of Easter Ogle and Wester Ogle, and Glenquiech; and on Wester Markhouse, Major Swinburn has just built a handsome dwelling in the style of the English cottage.

Land-owners.—There are, in all, twelve proprietors in the parish,—none of whom draw a rent of less than L. 300 Sterling. Their valued rents are as follows:—

Peter Wedderburn Ogilvy, Esq. of Ruthven,	L. 1218	6	8
George Lyon, Esq. of Glen Ogle, W. S. Edinburgh,	800	0	0
John Ogilvy, Esq. of Inshewan,	533	6	8
The Right Honourable David Earl of Airlie,	449	3	10
Charles Ogilvy, Esq. of Tannadice,	386	10	0
Donald Sinclair M'Lagan, Esq. of Glenquiech,	266	13	4
Mrs Rattray, relict of Lieutenant-Colonel Rattray, Esq. of Downiepark,	220	16	8
John Kinloch, Esq. of Kilrie Logie's Cairn,	216	13	4
Alexander Simpson, Esq. of Easter Ogle,	200	0	0
Major Swinburn of Markhouse,	180	3	10
The Honourable Lord Fife,	180	0	0
— Gemmel, Esq. of Whitewells,	145	0	0

Scots, L. 4796 14 4

Parochial Registers.—In these no funerals and but few marriages are recorded; and the register of baptisms, which commences in the year 1693, has not always been very regularly kept.

III.—POPULATION.

On a map, engraven about fifty years ago from a survey of the county made by Mr Ainslie, the population of this parish is stated to be 2000. By the census of 1801, the population is nearly

1300. At the former of these periods, there were many small holdings in Glenquiech, and more particularly in Glen Ogle, the dwellings on which have been demolished, their patches of ploughed land and gardens converted into pasture, and the whole let as sheep-farms. From these circumstances the decrease of population may be easily and satisfactorily accounted for. By the census of 1831, the population was 1560. This increase may be accounted for from several feus having been granted, and good houses erected on them, and from a number of new houses having been built by one proprietor, in the village. The spinning and plash-mills have also tended to increase the population.

The number of families in the parish is	294
of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	120
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	72

Nine licensed ale and whisky-houses, spinning and plash-mills, bothies, and a heckling-house, contribute nothing to improve the morals of the population. Nevertheless, the people are generally moral in their conduct, and regular in attending public worship.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—There are 106 holdings of land in the parish direct from the proprietors; but of these more than a half are under forty acres; some of them not exceeding four or five. The remainder are divided into farms, extending from 100 to 400 acres of arable land, the greater part of which are enclosed with dikes of reddish sandstone. The soil is so various that the produce may be calculated at from three to four times as many bolls per Scottish acre.

Rent of Land.—The maximum of rent is about L. 3, 10s. per Scottish acre.

Husbandry.—Alternate husbandry is universal. The rotation varies from four to seven years; and small slight two-horse ploughs, some of them of iron, and more of them of wood, are exclusively used. On almost every farm, and indeed on several pendicles, the grain is separated from the straw by mills driven by water or horse. The offices and farm-houses are constructed of stone and lime, and covered with slate, and all of them are comfortable and commodious.

The hills or lower part of the Grampians, comprehending upwards of two-thirds of the surface of the parish, are pastured by about 2400 sheep, which, when lambs, were brought from Linton at nearly double the price which they would have cost four years ago. During the two or three years they are kept, they yield

from two to three pounds per fleece of very indifferent wool yearly. The carcasses, when fattened on the hill, as they sometimes are, weigh from eight to ten pounds per quarter of well-flavoured mutton. But the far greater part, when rising three or four years old, are sold in October, to be fed off with turnips,—when they increase generally to about fifteen per cent. both in weight and value.

Cattle and Horses.—Many black-cattle are raised, and when rising three years old are stall-fed to the weight of from thirty to sixty stones of excellent beef, much of which is sent to Glasgow or London. The breed of horses is good, and few are used of an inferior description.

Spinning Mills, &c.—There are two spinning, and twice as many plash-mills,—the former of which may each throw off from 1300 or 1400 spindles weekly. No flax produced in this parish is spun at the mills, which are supplied from Dundee and Montrose. Much yarn is brought from the same places to be cleaned, where water and water-power are abundant; and opportunities are not wanting in Forfar and Kirriemuir of converting the yarn into cloth, in which form it is returned to the ports already mentioned.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—Of the great thoroughfare by Dundee to the north, there are about three miles in this parish, viz. from the bridge over the Esk at Finhaven, to that over the Noran at Nether Careston. This piece of turnpike, on which there is a toll-bar, is both nearly straight and level, and is easily kept in excellent order. There are two principal lines in the parish that lead to this turnpike; these, from the great number of very heavy loaded carriages daily, almost hourly, traversing them with coals, grain, flax, yarn, &c. are expensively kept up, and are now in indifferent repair. The other lines of road are numerous and long, and are barely passable in winter. There are four stone bridges over the Esk,—one of them with an arch of 105 feet span, being wholly, and the other three partially, in this parish.

Ecclesiastical State.—The Archbishop of St Andrews had been in use to let the teinds; and the tacksmen levied the *ipsa corpora*. St Mary's College having become titulars, continued the former practice of uplifting the teind till the year 1718, when the whole annual value of the parish was, upon oath, ascertained to be 15,000 merks Scots, of which a fifth, or 3000 merks, became teind; of this, the College allowed a third to the officiating resident clergyman: of the remaining two-thirds, they were finally

relieved, by a decret of augmentation obtained thirty years ago. Still the living is very inadequate to the charge. The glebe, exclusive of garden, &c. consists of eight Scotch acres, and if valued at the same rate as a few additional acres which the incumbent rents, would be worth L. 28 Sterling. The church has had a choir and an oriel window,—indications of a Roman Catholic origin. It is in a tolerable state of repair, but otherwise very inconvenient and uncomfortable. The manse was built in 1797, and has since received an addition, and, as a whole, is substantial, comfortable, and most delightfully situated. The other accommodations are of later erection than the manse, and are spacious and substantial.

The parish church, which is but indifferently seated, may contain 650 persons. The communicants are about 570, besides about 100 who annually communicate at Cortachy; in all, nearly 700. Three of the heritors are of the Episcopalian persuasion, and two are Presbyterians. There are three women and one man who attend the Secession. An Episcopalian minister officiated in the parish church till the year 1716; but, being favourable to the rebellion, he was dismissed, and his son was hanged. The people then elected and got a Presbyterian minister ordained and admitted; but in the course of six years he became so unpopular, and was so grossly slandered, as to be deposed; but upon a review of the sentence, it was found so iniquitous that it was cancelled in a few years; yet the poor man had neither opportunity nor encouragement to exercise his restored privileges, as another had in the meantime been installed in his place. Nor did the latter long enjoy his situation. On his death, St Mary's College wished to fill up the vacancy, but the person they recommended being rejected, another was popularly elected. At next vacancy the patrons exercised their right, and after going more than once the round of all the church courts, made it good. If the three former incumbencies were stormy, this was a hurricane, terminated only by death, the settler of all controversies, and leaving a large debt for law expenses.

Education.—The parochial schoolmaster has an excellent dwelling-house, and teaching-room apart,—both beautifully situated. His accommodations are good, and his salary the maximum. There are other three male teachers in the parish,—one of whom depends nearly altogether upon school-fees; but besides fees, the other two have teaching-rooms, dwelling-houses, and gardens, free, and not less than L. 10 annually, by subscription or otherwise. There are about as many female as male teachers in the parish;

of these, one has a beautiful cottage, and well kept garden, some bolls of meal yearly, and a supply of milk daily, all from the generosity of Lady Airly. The reading of English, the various uses of the needle, French, and music, are taught in this female seminary, where boarders are kept. The two first branches only are taught in the other schools, and the mistresses have no sources of support except the fees. About 200 children receive instruction in the elementary and higher branches of education. There are also two Sabbath schools, one of them taught gratuitously by some members of the minister's family, and other well-disposed individuals.

All persons in the parish above seven years of age can read, and there are but very few who have not made some additional literary attainments.

Libraries.—We have two parochial libraries, viz. one in the village, kept by the parochial schoolmaster; the other in Glen Ogle, kept by the schoolmaster in that district. The latter consists principally of moral and religious books and tracts, with a few historical works; the former consists of all these, with not a few fictitious compositions.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—Nearly a century ago, there appears to have been, during several years, a parochial assessment for the support of the poor, which was found to be not only troublesome and expensive, but also demoralizing. There being a small sum, or parochial fund, belonging to the poor, it was raised by donations and collections, until in the year 1796 it amounted to L. 210 Sterling. This stock, though reduced by the four very severe seasons of 1799, 1800, 1816, and 1822, amounts at present to L. 318 Sterling, bearing four per cent. interest on good security. The interest, with the weekly collections made in the church, mortcloth money, and occasional donations, amounts in all, according to the annual balance-sheets of the three last years, to from L. 75 to L. 78 annually. This sum is distributed amongst four families and eight individuals, whose allowances range from 2s. 6d. to 10s. monthly; besides house rent, fuel, shoes, &c. But there are many who receive privately donations in money, meal, flannel, &c.—they eking out, by their own industry or the aid of others, what farther is necessary for their support. In this way, they are either not known, or not considered, as paupers.

Savings Bank.—A savings bank, on a sure foundation, has existed twenty years in the parish, in which there are deposited upwards of L. 300, greatly to the benefit of both male and female shareholders.

The latter always draw out on the certain prospect of marriage; and the former, when any situation of independence casts up. The interest is a comfortable addition to the incomes of many.

Fuel.—Everything capable of ignition is used as fuel, viz. whins, broom, brushwood, turf, peats, and coals; the last can be purchased at Montrose for 1s. 1d., or a little more per barrel, of 10 stones English weight, or 160 pounds. The upper part of the parish, to which coals were almost inaccessible, can now be as easily supplied from the depot at Newtyle by the rail-road, as the lower from Montrose. There are thirteen taxable carriages at present running in the parish, some of them with four, and others with two wheels. Forty years ago there was not one of either description. Few of the roads, indeed, were suitable for such vehicles.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The principal improvements within the last forty years have been already mentioned. It may be added, that, if we may judge by the longevity of many, the parish is very healthy. A few years ago seven men and a maiden lady died in one year, all upwards of eighty years of age: and last winter, a man, who had been at the battle of Culloden, died at the age of 104, and another only twelve years younger. There are at present upwards of ten persons alive about eighty years of age; and three nearly ninety.

January 1835.