

PARISH OF LOGIE PERT.

PRESBYTERY OF BRECHIN, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNNS.

THE REV. THOMAS HILL, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—THE parish of Logie, or Logie-Montrose, as it was formerly called, was annexed to the parish of Pert about the year 1610 or 1615. The word *Logie* (which is very common throughout Scotland) is said to be of Gaelic origin, and to signify “a flat or low situation,” which certainly corresponds to that of the old church of Logie, the remains of which are still romantically situated in a hollow or low ground close by the North Esk river. Pert is of uncertain origin. The old church of Pert is no less beautifully situated on the banks of the North Esk, near to the old North-water bridge, and three miles up the river from Logie. The united parish extends from east to west nearly 5 English miles, and from north to south 3 miles. Its boundaries are, on the north, the river North Esk; on the south, the parish of Dun; on the east, the parish of Montrose; and on the west, the parish of Strickathrow.

Topographical Appearances, &c.—The figure of the parish is somewhat of an oblong or rather elliptical form, though by no

means regular. The lower part lies along the banks of the North Esk, which, by a beautiful curve, divides it, towards the north and east, from the adjoining parishes of Marykirk and St Cyrus. The upper part is pretty high,—generally, however, bending with a gentle declivity to the river, and commanding a noble and extensive view of the Grampians and Mearns. In the lower part, the soil is a fine deep loam, while in the upper it is generally a black soil on a clay bottom. The temperature is in general keen, and apparently not unfavourable to longevity, although at times, particularly in 1787–8, there have prevailed fevers highly infectious and epidemical. The other distempers most common amongst us are, the gravel, rheumatism, and consumptions. It is said that the plague raged here in 1648.

Hydrography, &c.—There are several springs in the parish, but none of them of great celebrity. There was one in the old churchyard of Logie, formerly much resorted to for medicinal purposes, which is now completely dry. Another is situated near the spot where the old manse of Pert stood, and still yields a quantity of excellent water. The only river is the North Esk, already-mentioned, more commonly called the North-water, which divides the two counties of Angus and Mearns. It takes its rise from the mountain torrents, and, after issuing from a small lake in the parish of Lochlee, falls into the sea about three miles north of Montrose, by the South Esk, which also rises among the Grampians, and falls into an inland bay called the Basin of Montrose.

The North-water produces in abundance excellent trout and salmon,—the fishing of which yields a considerable revenue to the different proprietors. The parish abounds with the usual sorts of game; and, of late years, the pheasant, formerly a rare bird, has become very common.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There are no historical events worthy of notice.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners are the following, in the order of their valued rents: David Carnegie, Esq. of Craigo; James Lyall, Esq. of Gallary; the Earl of Kintore; Lieutenant-General Sir John Hope, K. C. B.; the Most Noble the Marquis of Ailsa; and Alexander Cruickshank, Esq. of Strickathrow,—only the two first of whom reside in the parish.

Parochial Registers.—There are no parochial registers in existence of a date previous to the year 1716,—those prior to that date having probably perished amid the disturbances of 1715,—since which time they have been regularly kept, and are now in good order.

Antiquities.—The only antiquities in the parish are the three tumuli, on three laws of Craigo, mentioned in the former Statistical Account, and situated nearly a mile west of the house of Craigo. Two of these tumuli have been opened, and in one of them was found a stone coffin, containing a human skeleton almost entire,—the bones of an extraordinary size, of a deep-yellow colour, and very brittle. In the other tumulus opened, there were found, about a foot from the surface, four human skeletons of gigantic proportions, and near to these, a beautiful black ring like ebony, of a fine polish, and in perfect preservation. The ring was 12 inches in circumference, and 4 in diameter, flat in the inside, rounded without, and capable of fitting a large wrist. In the same tumulus was found an urn full of ashes. From the discovery of these skeletons of extraordinary size, both here and in other parts of Scotland, some confirmation would seem to be given to the ancient tradition, that at one time there was a race of giants in this country.

III.—POPULATION.

There is no written record from which the state of the population can be exactly ascertained previous to 1791, when the amount was 999. In 1801 it had decreased about 100, in consequence of the junction of farms, and the demolition of cottar houses; but since then it has gradually increased, and in 1831 it was 1360,—an increase, doubtless, owing principally to the flourishing state of the two manufacturing establishments in the parish, which of late years have been greatly enlarged, and in the immediate vicinity of which, consequently, a great part, we may say about one-half, of the whole population is congregated.

1. The number of families in the parish is,	-	-	-	260
	chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	109
		trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	-	134
2.	unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, above 50,	-	-	9
	unmarried women, including widows, above 45,	-	-	50
3. Average number of births yearly for last 7 years,	-	-	-	31
	deaths,	-	-	10
	marriages,	-	-	8
4.	persons under 15 years of age,	-	-	500
	upwards of 70,	-	-	30

The average number of children in each family is 5. There are 2 fatuous persons and 1 blind boy in the parish.

Character and Habits of the People.—Their habits are generally cleanly and orderly. The ordinary food of the peasantry is oat-meal, milk, and potatoes. The people at large certainly seem to enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts and advantages of society, and appear, moreover, to be contented with their situation and circumstances. Their character in general may be described as shrewd, industrious, moral, and religious.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—There are few acres of waste land in this parish which could at present be profitably cultivated, and there are none of undivided common.

The number of acres under cultivation is	.	8795
lying waste, about	-	300
under wood,	-	1100

The kinds of trees generally planted are, larches, spruce, and Scotch fir.

Husbandry.—The most usual mode of cropping in this parish is the four-shift,—that is, 1st, fallow; 2d, a corn crop sown down with grass seeds; 3d, grass; 4th, oats. The grain raised is generally of excellent quality, and may be said to average as follows: wheat from 8 to 10 bolls, barley 7 bolls, and oats 8 bolls per acre; potatoes vary from 25 to 45 bolls, and hay from 150 to 200 stones per acre. There is little or no meadow-hay in the parish. Flax is not now raised, except for private use.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of land in the parish is about L. 1, 10s. per acre; the valued rent is L. 3716, 13s. 4d. Scotch; and the real rent may be stated at L. 5000 Sterling.

Wages of Labour.—Women generally get from 8d. to 10d. per day, and men 1s. 4d. in winter, and 1s. 6d. or 1s. 8d. in summer. Master wrights from 2s. 6d. to 3s., and their apprentices 1s. 6d. per day, without victuals. Unmarried ploughmen may be had at from L. 10 to L. 12 yearly, with 6½ bolls of meal, and a Scotch pint of sweet milk per day. The married men receive a little more money, with the addition of some coals and potatoes. The price of good carts is now from L. 12 to L. 14, and of ploughs from L. 3 to L. 4. There are generally a few sheep kept during the winter to consume the bone-dust turnip; and the kind of cattle in common use is the Angus-shire. The usual duration of leases is nineteen years. The state of the farm houses and offices is in general excellent. One steading was recently built at a cost of not less than L. 2000. There are almost no stone enclosures in the parish, and only a few thorn hedges,—the prevailing fence being composed of strong and moveable paling. With regard to improvements it may be added, that draining has been successfully carried to a great extent in this parish. Irrigation, however, is little practised; and, except on the banks of the North Esk, embanking is not required.

Quarries.—There are some lime quarries in the west end of the parish, which were several years ago wrought to a considerable extent, but are now completely given up. On the estate of Craigo,

also, there is a freestone quarry of excellent quality, but attended with such expense, that few stones now leave the estate.

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish annually, as nearly as can be ascertained, may be stated as follows:

440 quarters wheat, at L. 2, 10s,	-	-	-	L. 1100	0	0
448 do. peas and beans, at L. 1, 10s,	-	-	-	672	0	0
4075 do. oats, at L. 1, 2s,	-	-	-	4482	0	0
2870 do. barley, at L. 1, 10s,	-	-	-	4305	0	0
234 acres hay, including what is cut green, 150 stones per acre, at 6d. per stone,	-	-	-	877	0	0
136 acres potatoes, at L. 10 per acre,	-	-	-	1360	0	0
285 do. turnips, at L. 5,	-	-	-	1425	0	0
Annual thinnings of wood,	-	-	-	250	0	0
Salmon fishing,	-	-	-	50	0	0
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				L. 14,521	0	0

It may here be added, that a very productive source of income to many families is the dairy produce which is consumed in the parish, and weekly, or oftener, sent to Montrose, amounting, it is believed, to not less than several hundred pounds annually.

Manufactures.—There are, as already mentioned, two great manufacturing establishments in the parish, namely, those at Logie and Craigo. They are both situated on the banks of the North Esk, about half a mile distant from each other. The Logie works, which comprise a bleachfield and flax spinning-mill, belong to a company in Montrose. The bleachfield has been in existence nearly seventy years. At present, it is employed solely in bleaching linen yarns, which are afterwards manufactured into various kinds of cloth for the home and foreign markets. The number of hands employed varies from 40 to 50, consisting of men, women, and boys, the boys earning from 4s. to 6s., the women from 5s. to 6s., and the men from 10s. to 12s. weekly. The average working time is eleven hours per day. The flax spinning-mill was erected upwards of thirty years ago, and has been lately much enlarged. It employs about 130 hands, consisting of men, women, and children. None are employed under ten, and but few under twelve years of age; the wages vary from 3s. to 20s. and upwards weekly, and the average working time, according to the late act, is sixty-nine hours weekly, or twelve hours per day, for five days of the week, and nine hours for the remaining working day. The Craigo works are still more extensive, comprising a flax spinning-mill of 31 frames, a bleachfield, cloth finishing machinery, and an alkali manufacture, giving constant employment to about 150 people, male and female, and paying about L. 100 weekly in wages. These latter works, which attained to their present extent

and importance in the hands of John Maberly, Esq. late Member for Abingdon, are now the property of Messrs Richards and Company, London. Both works, the writer feels pleasure in adding, are under excellent management, and great attention is paid to the health, morals, and education of those employed at them.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There are no villages in the parish. The nearest market-town is Montrose, which is distant about four miles from the east end of the parish, and where the traffic during the week is very considerable.

Means of Communication.—A daily post runs through the parish from Montrose to Laurencekirk, and the Union and Defiance coaches from Edinburgh to Aberdeen daily pass in a different direction. The length of the turnpike roads is only about 3 miles, namely, 1 mile to the west, from the North-water bridge toll on the Brechin road, and 2 miles on the Marykirk road to Montrose; the line of which last is now undergoing a considerable alteration, with the view of avoiding the long ascent at the back of Rosemount. There are two great bridges connected with the parish,—the old North-water bridge, which was built above 300 years ago, and consists of three arches, and the Marykirk bridge, a handsome bridge of four arches, which was built in 1814, at a cost of L. 7000, by means of shares of L. 25 each, and under the sanction of an act of Parliament. This last erection was a great and decided improvement, and has very much facilitated the intercourse of the two counties.

Ecclesiastical State.—The situation of the parish church is exactly central, being about three miles distant from the two extremities. It was built in 1775, and has undergone sundry repairs. But it is neither a commodious nor a comfortable place of worship, and, what is worse, it has of late become insufficient for the accommodation of the increasing population of the parish: the consideration of which circumstances will, it is hoped, soon lead to the erection of a new building, at once more comfortable and more adequate to the existing wants of the people. The number for which it at present affords suitable accommodation is 500, and there are free sittings for about 20 of these. The manse was built in 1776, and has at different times got repairs and additions, although still its accommodation is limited and confined. The glebe is about 9 acres in extent, and may be valued at L. 2 per acre. At the last augmentation in 1822, the stipend was fixed at 15 chalders, half barley and half meal, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for com-

munion elements. All the families in the parish belong to the Establishment, except 15, of whom 5 are Episcopalians, and the rest attend neighbouring Dissenting meeting-houses. When the weather permits, attendance on Divine service is generally very regular and good. For the last five years, the average number of communicants has been 500. There are no societies for religious purposes in the parish. But the people, when appealed to publicly, as they frequently are, in behalf of such purposes as the Assembly's Highland Schools and Indian Mission, seldom fail to respond in a very liberal manner, and for the last three years the average amount of church collections yearly, for special religious and charitable purposes, has exceeded L. 10.

Education.—Besides the parochial, there are two unendowed schools, recently built, one at each of the mills, and also three smaller ones, taught by females, in different parts of the parish. The usual elementary branches are taught in them all. The parochial teacher's salary is the maximum, and his school fees amount to about L. 10. He is provided with all the legal accommodations. With the exception of the blind boy, and the two fatuous persons formerly mentioned, it is believed there are none in the parish above six years of age who cannot read or write. The people in general are much alive to the benefits of education, and exert themselves to procure for their children the best teaching in their power. The total number of scholars attending all the schools in the parish is about 200.

Literature.—There is a small parochial library, and also one at Logie Mill, the volumes of which, consisting of religious and instructive books, are eagerly sought after by the young, and many of the older people.

Savings Banks.—At each of the mills there is a bank kept expressly for the accommodation of the work people. Besides which, there has been a savings bank established in the parish, since 1815. For the last eight years, the deposits have averaged L. 29, and the sums withdrawn L. 24 per annum. It is chiefly the labouring class by whom the investments are made, and there can be no doubt of the advantage which they derive from so doing.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons on the poor's roll is 15, and the average sum allowed to each is 1s. weekly, besides one or two extraordinary allowances during the year, and assistance in times of sickness. There are about 15 more who receive occasionally. In addition to which, exclusive of other less onerous demands, there are at present two imbecile ob-

jects who cost the session annually L. 15, 12s. The average annual amount of the poor funds is L. 90, composed as follows: church collections, L. 40; donations, L. 20; interest of money lent, L. 15; and about L. 15 from seat rents, mortcloth, &c. As yet, happily, assessment, either compulsory or voluntary, is unknown amongst us; and it is gratifying to remark, that there still exists among the people generally a feeling of independence which shrinks from asking parochial relief as long as possible, and which, at the same time, induces them to contribute to their poorer brethren so long as they have the means of doing so.

Fairs.—There are two fairs now held in this parish, which formerly used to be in the parish of Dun. They are still held on a part of the moor of Dun, on the second Tuesday of May and the third Thursday of June, and are for the sale principally of cattle and horses.

Alehouses, &c.—There is a public house at one of the mills, besides those at the two toll-houses at the North-water and Marykirk bridges, which last are chiefly frequented by travellers, and are in general well kept.

Fuel.—The fuel commonly used is English coal, procured at the shore of Montrose at from 1s. to 1s. 3d. per barrel, and frequently also *hag* or brushwood, which is to be had in great abundance in the parish, and at a very reasonable rate, varying from 1s. to 3s. per cart load.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the time of the last Statistical Account, (1791,) the two most striking variations in the state of the parish appear to be the now highly improved system of husbandry, which is nowhere better understood,—and the great increase, as already mentioned, which has taken place in the manufacturing establishments.

With regard to the improvements of which the parish is still susceptible, it may just be noticed, in conclusion, that the great desideratum, undoubtedly, is the improvement or amendment of the parish roads, nearly all of which are in a wretched state; the money hitherto expended upon them being utterly inadequate to keep them in decent repair. But it is hoped and believed that soon more attention will be paid to them, and that the mode of keeping them up will be put on a better footing than at present,—one of them tending to increase the facility of internal communication, and also greatly to enhance the value of property in the parish.

January 1835.