

PARISH OF KINNEFF.

PRESBYTERY OF FORDOUN, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNES.

THE REV. THOMAS BROWN, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THIS parish seems to have derived its name from the Castle of Kinneff, the remains of which may still be seen in the neighbourhood of the church. According to a local tradition, Kenneth, one of the Kings of Scotland, was its founder, and it was afterwards retained as a royal residence.

Boundaries.—The parish is nearly triangular in figure, having for its boundaries, on the south, Bervie; on the east, the German Ocean; on the north, Dunnottar; and on the west, Arbuthnott. It extends 5 miles along the sea coast, its breadth at the northern extremity being about 4, and at the southern less than half a mile. According to a survey made by Mr Garden in 1774, it contains 6408 English acres.

The sea-coast, along its whole extent, is rocky, presenting a range of cliffs about 180 feet in height, and generally with no beach intervening to separate them from the deep water. Occasionally, they fall back into little bays, where a narrow stripe of coarse gravel is heaped up by the waves, but sand is almost unknown. Though bare of wood, the soil is fertile, often covered with rich verdure to the edge of the sea, and the rugged aspect of the rocks, their deep caves, and precipitous cliffs offer much that is bold and picturesque to the lovers of natural scenery.

The high grounds which traverse the parish have marked out several well-defined districts into which it may be divided. Along the sea coast stretches a low-lying tract of deep loamy soil, varying from a quarter to about three-quarters of a mile in breadth, which has long been celebrated for its abundant crops of grain. Passing inland over the hill of Slains, a district of inferior value presents itself, bounded on the north by a range of elevated ground, which rises at one point into the hill of St John. Beyond, lies the "land of Barras,"—a district where the effects of recent agricultural improvement are very marked.

Close to the furthest boundary on the north-west is the hill of Bruxie, 650 feet in height, and the most elevated point in the parish. The Todhead and Craig David or Bervie Brow are well-known landmarks on the coast, rising bold and steep over the German Ocean.

Geology.—The rocks consist, for the most part, of old red sandstone conglomerate. They are well exposed along the coast, dipping from east to west generally at an angle of less than 25°. The strata are of considerable thickness, and present every variety in their composition,—the smaller grained sandstones being sometimes suddenly overlaid by deep confused masses of gravel and boulders compactly bound together by hard cement. The boulders and pebbles of the conglomerate are chiefly masses of granite, gneiss, quartz, and porphyry. Near Whistleberry, a thin irregular layer of impure limestone occurs. Traces of igneous action also are not unfrequent. A claystone porphyry, with imbedded crystals of felspar, sometimes overflows the conglomerate, and, at other points, inserts itself among the strata. It is known by the provincial name of *scurdy*, and, in various places through the parish, has been quarried for fences, and sometimes even houses.

Calcareous spar traverses the conglomerate in long veins. Claystone, hornblende, crystallized quartz, heavy-spar, asbestos, and zeolite have been observed. Agates also occur, but not frequently.

Botany.—The surface of the parish, varying from the rocky sea-coast, to the upland marsh and heathy moor, presents a considerable field for native plants. Among the more remarkable is the *Silene nutans*, not hitherto observed so far north, which blossoms in great profusion among the rocks. *Primula veris* and *P. elatior*, contrary to the statement of Hooker, are found growing abundantly with *P. vulgaris*, in circumstances which cast doubt on their claims to the rank of species. Close to the sea the *Geranium sanguineum* hangs forth its showy flowers; while the scarcely less beautiful *Gentiana campestris*, and *Astragalus hypoglottis*, with the more common *Silene maritima* and *Dianthus deltoides*, also adorn the banks.

The native *Fuci* of the rocks do not present much that is remarkable or rare. Dulse (*Rhodomenia palmata*) grows large on the conglomerate where exposed to the tide; *Iridæa edulis* and *Catenella opuntia* occur more sparingly; and in sheltered spots nothing can exceed the beauty of *Delesseria sanguinea* and *Odonthalia dentata*, with their elegant deep-red fronds floating beneath the wave.

In some instances, the native plants are turned to economical purposes. Broom is employed for thatch, many poorer houses in the parish being covered with it. The younger shoots are chiefly used, and are bound down to the roof with ropes of straw, or, when greater durability is desired, of heather. The latter are twisted with the hand by shepherds in the neighbourhood. The whin is sometimes employed for feeding cattle. On several small farms there is an apparatus in use, driven by a horse, for bruising the branches of the plant, and preparing them for food. Dulse is much eaten, being gathered to a considerable extent during the summer months, and carried inland in carts for sale. The young shoots of the tangle (*Laminaria digitata*) are also similarly used.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

When King David Bruce returned from France in 1341, he was pursued by the English fleet, and driven so far from his direct course, that the first point of his kingdom which he touched was the shore of Kinneff. In gratitude for his escape, he afterwards caused a chapel to be erected on the spot, and mass performed. The ruins of this building, which were standing at the date of the last Statistical Account, have since disappeared; but the bold rock under which he landed, still bears the name of Craig

David; and there is a spring familiarly known as the "Chapel Well."

During the civil war, when Scotland was invaded by the English forces under Cromwell, a circumstance occurred of much interest in the history of the parish. After the battle of Dunbar, so rapidly was the country overrun by the enemy, that the regalia (by order of Parliament, 6th June 1651,) were conveyed for greater security to Dunnottar Castle, then a fortress of great strength, defended by Lieutenant-Governor George Ogilvie, of Barras, with a garison of about 100 men. Close siege was laid to it during the years 1651 and 1652, and the English commanders * in all their movements displayed the utmost anxiety to gain possession of the ensigns of Royalty. This desire was baffled by Christian Fletcher, wife of James Granger, minister of Kinneff. According to local tradition, Mrs Granger was returning one day from Stonehaven, when she requested of the English forces permission to visit the castle. This request must have seemed the more reasonable, from the circumstance, that the commander of the place, Ogilvie of Barras, and his lady, who shared with him the hardships of the siege, were parishioners of Kinneff. Without hesitation, therefore, she was permitted to enter, and the garrison being nearly reduced to the necessity of surrendering, the regalia were entrusted to her care. The sceptre and sword of state were concealed in a bag or fish-creel, among *hards* of lint, and carried by a female attendant. The crown Mrs Granger herself took in charge, covering it in her apron, and in this guise passed without obstruction the English forces—their general himself, it is said, with the utmost politeness, assisting the lady to her horse. After being thus rescued, the regalia were kept, "sometimes in the church of Kinneff, concealed under the pulpit, and at other times in a double-bottomed bed in the manse, till the Restoration, in 1660, when they were delivered to Mr George Ogilvie, who restored them." The parties engaged in these transactions were

* The names of these commanders are variously given. Sir W. Scott, without quoting authority, says that the castle was summoned to surrender, on November 8, by Lieutenant-General Overtoun; and again, on December 22, by Lieutenant-Colonel Dutton. In Jamieson's edition of Slezer's *Theatrum Scotiae* it is said to have been besieged by Lambert, one of the Parliamentary Commissioners in Scotland at the time. Ogilvie is said to have surrendered to Major-General Deane, on 4th June 1652 (Whitelocke, *Mem.* quoted by Scott); but in the account of the Regalia by Bonnatyne Club, Colonel Thomas Morgan is represented as commanding the English. Deane was Commander-in-Chief in Scotland at the time, and afterwards granted Ogilvie a protection, on condition of his not going farther than three miles from his house at Barras.

afterwards rewarded by the Government of Charles, but not certainly in the direct ratio of their services. Mrs Granger, to whose presence of mind the merit was chiefly due, had 2000 merks voted her by Parliament (January 11, 1661). Mr Ogilvie was made a Baronet, but received no compensation for the fines and sequestrations to which his estate had been subjected. Sir John Keith, the nominal governor of the castle, was created Earl of Kintore, partly in compliment to his mother, Margaret Erskine, Countess Marischal, under whose authority Mrs Granger acted, and partly on account of the imprisonment he suffered from taking on himself the fictitious responsibility of having carried abroad the regalia, and delivered them to Charles II. A tombstone, erected in the church of Kinneff to the memory of Mr Granger, bears the following inscription:—

Scotia Grangeri cui insignia regia debet
 Servata, hic cineres reliquiaeque jacent ;
 Abstulit obsesso pœne hæc captiva Dunotro,
 Condidit et sacra qua tumulator* humo.
 Præmia dant Superi, Patrii servator honoris
 Sceptra rotat superos inter athleta choros.

Eminent Men.—“ The famous Dr John Arbuthnott, intimate friend of Pope and Swift, and physician to Queen Anne, lived for some time in this parish. His father, the minister of Arbuthnott, was, at the Revolution, turned out of his living, by his chief and patron, Lord Arbuthnott, who was then a very keen partizan; upon which he retired to his own property of Kingorny, where he lived for some time, having his son, the Doctor, a young man, along with him.”

Land owners.—There are nine proprietors in the parish. The lands of Kinneff, including nearly one-half of the valued rental, are held by the Trustees of the late Lord Keith; the estate of Barras, by the Trustees for Donaldson's Hospital in Edinburgh; and the lands of Catterline, with Chapel of Barras, by Lord Arbuthnott. The remaining heritors are, the Heirs of the late C. Abercrombie of Bellfield; T. G. Straiton of Castle of Fiddes;

* Tumulatur? The poetical version of these lines here subjoined is by the Rev. J. M. Mitchell, now of Bombay.

Reader, here Granger's sacred ashes lie,
 Who, patriotic, every danger braved,
 To whom for th' emblems of her royalty
 Scotland indebted stands; for these he saved,
 And from Dunnottar's leagured towers conveyed,
 And in this sacred pile in secret laid.
 Who but the Power Supreme could e'er bestow
 Reward sufficient for desert like this?
 He who his country's honour saved below,
 Now wields a sceptre in the realms of bliss.

Dr William Young of Fawsyde; the Town of Montrose, as Trustees for Erskine's Fund; the Heirs of the late Rev. P. Stewart of Coltbank of Hilton; and the Heirs of the late John Low of Mains of Hilton.

Parochial Registers.—The session records are complete from the settlement of Mr Honeyman, in 1663, though the first volume is much injured, and in many places illegible.

Antiquities.—Of the Castle of Kinneff nothing now remains but a small part of the foundations. It is mentioned by Buchanan in his History as having been garrisoned by the English, when they overran the country during the minority of David Bruce. At what period it was permitted to fall to ruin does not appear; but early in last century "one high wall of the said castle" is described as standing "so strongly cemented, that stones may be easier won out of a quarry" than from it.*

A religious house, called St Arnty's Kill, (St Arnold's Cell, Macf. MSS.) is mentioned in the former Statistical Account as standing "at the north corner of the farm garden, in a straight line between the church and the castle." It has since wholly disappeared.

"Near the Castle of Kinneff, and beyond a small headland about one hundred paces north-east, there are to be seen the remains of an old work upon the top of a peninsular rock, called the Castle of Cadden. It seems to have had a ditch and drawbridge to protect it from an attack by land, where there remain some vestiges of masonry. The rest seems to have been an earthen mound thrown up about the top of the rock. About two hundred paces further north-east is another peninsular rock, having the remains of a drawbridge to the land side. Upon the top of this rock are still extant the remains of a small house and other buildings said to have been inhabited by a private gentleman about one hundred and fifty years ago, and is named the Castle of Whistleberry. And about two hundred paces north-east from this last mentioned castle are the remains of a third stronghold, very much like the first in every respect, but much larger. It is called Adam's Castle. With respect to the Castle of Cadden, and Adam's Castle, there are no traditional accounts."†

* Macfar. MSS. p. 323.

† The remains of these strongholds are now less distinct, and the older description, therefore, is here retained. The coast must have presented a striking appearance, with its fortified castles thus crowning the bolder headlands, and standing in so close

“ Four or five years ago, in digging a grave for Lady Ogilvie of Barras, in the church of Kinneff, there was found buried in an earthen pot about a pound and a half of old silver coins. They were almost all of one size, about the breadth of a sixpence; a few about half that size; and all bore either the impression of Edward of England, or of Alexander of Scotland. The impression and legend on the Scotch coins are much better executed than on the English. It is likely this treasure might have been laid where it was found about the year 1336, when the English garrison occupied the Castle of Kinneff.”

“ There was a tumulus or cairn upon St John’s hill opened about twenty years ago, in the bottom of which, a little under the surface of the ground, were found three long flat stones, one of them covering the other two, and having a shorter one at each end. In this was contained nearly a cart-load of rich black earth, having a mixture of half-burnt bones and bits of oak charcoal, without any kind of urn. There are other tumuli in the parish.”*

The late Rev. A. Stewart, minister of this parish, presented, in 1834, to the Society of Antiquaries, a vase, with a number of bronze rings of various sizes, two of them entire, the rest in fragments, with a spear-head of bronze. The following interesting description by Mr Stewart is preserved in the Society’s minutes: † “ These relics of antiquity were found on the 15th December 1831, by my workmen, while trenching a field on the top of a cliff overhanging the German Ocean, and near the site of the old Castle of Kinneff. The piece of metal resembling the point of a spear, or part of a sword, was discovered about twelve inches below the surface of the ground, lying across the mouth of the urn, but separated from it by a layer of earth about two inches thick. Round the mouth of the urn there was an outer edge or rim about two inches in depth, and of the same material as the urn itself; but it crumbled into dust on being handled. The urn was quite full of earth compactly pressed together. And on the surface of this earth, were found the inner rings set upon their sides, and which were broke into their present state by the workmen attempting to pull them out of the earth. At the bottom of the

proximity. Among the lands in which Sir Robert Arbuthnott is served heir to his father in 1633, I find the Castle of Whistleberry described as a “ manor-place” — “ cum maneriei loco vocato Qwhissilberie.” *Inquisitiones Speciales Kincardine*, 62.

* Former Statistical Account.

† For this extract I am indebted to Joseph Robertson, Esq. Secretary to the Society.

urn, were found the larger rings entire, and also two button-shaped ornaments, the one made of a substance resembling bone, the other of a substance like coal. "The latter was quite entire when discovered, but has since fallen to pieces."

III.—POPULATION.

There has been comparatively little fluctuation in the number of inhabitants, which, so far as they can be traced at different periods, have been as follows :

In the year 1755, the number of inhabitants was	858
1782,	about 1000
1811,	952
1821,	1086
1881,	1006
1841,	1029

The number of deaths for 1841 was 24, but the average may be somewhat less. Births average 30, and marriages about 9.

The number of persons of different ages may be stated to be—

Under 15 years of age,	389
15 and under 30,	277
30 50,	191
50 70,	188
Above 70,	84

The families are 205 in number ; inhabited houses, 204 ; and uninhabited, 14.

There is one individual blind, two fatuous or lunatic, and two are deaf and dumb.

The only resident proprietor is Dr William Young of Fawsyde.

All the heritors draw upwards of L.50 of rental.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

According to the survey of Mr Garden, the number of imperial acres in the parish is 6408. Of these, 4798 are in tillage, and about 250 of the remainder might, with a profitable outlay of capital, be brought into cultivation. Only 53 acres are under wood.

Rent, &c.—The average rent of arable land per imperial acre is about L.1, 3s. 6d. Leases are granted generally for nineteen years, a period considered favourable both to landlord and tenant.

Wages.—The wages of married farm-servants average about L.12, 12s. per annum, 6½ bolls of oatmeal, with land for potatoes, a house and garden, and a daily allowance of 1½ Scotch pint of milk in summer, and 1 pint in winter. Unmarried servants engage for six months, and the average wages may be L.7, 10s., with the same allowance of milk and meal as the married servants. Able day-labourers are paid 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. per day in summer, and 1s. in winter, with victuals. Reaping is performed for 3s., and

green-crop hoeing for 4s. per imperial acre. Country artisans do their work by the piece or contract.

Live-Stock.—The breed of cattle kept is the polled Angus, and on several farms great attention has been paid to their improvement. No sheep are bred in the parish. The black-cattle are sold either at two years old for grazing, or at three years old when fit for the butcher.

No very extensive improvement of waste land has recently taken place in the parish. It is found in some instances where heathy moor has been reclaimed, that it will not ultimately be of advantage for landlord or tenant.

The state of farm-buildings is generally good, and agriculture is carried on with great spirit. The principal obstacle to improvement is the want of encouragement by proprietors to draining and properly enclosing the land. A few farms are partly enclosed with stone-dikes, erected at the expense of the proprietor,—the tenant paying interest on the money expended; but generally two-fifths of the arable land, being kept in grass, is inclosed with wooden railing, which occasions considerable expense to the farmer, and not only forms a very imperfect fence, but affords no shelter, which is much wanted in this exposed climate.

Quarries.—Several freestone quarries afford sufficient material for the buildings within the parish, but are of no further advantage to the proprietors. The rocks along the coast furnish excellent mill-stones, which have long been in high repute, and are sent to a considerable distance. They cost from L.5 to L.10.

Fisheries.—A salmon-fishing is rented at L.15. At the fishing village of Catterline there are two boats' crews, and at Shieldhill there is only one boat weekly manned.

Produce.—As nearly as can be ascertained, the following may be the value of the gross produce raised in the parish :

Grain of all kinds,	L.8450	0	0
Turnips and potatoes,	2800	0	0
Straw,	2010	0	0
Hay,	600	0	0
Pasture,	2000	0	0
Fisheries,	550	0	0
	L.15,910	0	0

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns.—The market-towns chiefly resorted to by the parishioners are Stonehaven and Bervie, the former lying about four and a-half miles to the north, and the latter close to the

boundary on the south. The fishing station of Catterline containing, inclusive of the coast-guard, upwards of twenty families, is the nearest approach to a village.

Means of Communication.—In few parishes have the roads been better constructed or more carefully maintained. Besides the great coast road from Edinburgh to Aberdeen, and the Strathmore road, which forms the boundary to the north-west, there are about eighteen miles of parish roads, and the manner in which they are kept in repair is such as to reflect great credit on the trustees.

It is perhaps deserving of notice, that Mr Stevenson, Civil Engineer, so far back as 1820, surveyed a line of railway extending from the port of Aberdeen, through the valley of Strathmore to the town of Crieff, on one uninterrupted level of 104 miles; a circumstance of which there is perhaps no other instance in the united kingdom.* Should this magnificent design be carried into execution, the railway will pass through the parish of Kinneff, and may give much commercial importance to the district.

At Catterline, a pier has been lately constructed, by the Viscount Arbutnott, which will be of great service to small coasting vessels unloading lime and coals. It is understood the situation presents many natural advantages for more extended and safe harbour accommodation.

Ecclesiastical State.—Previous to the Reformation, the parish of Kinneff included also Bervie and Catterline. Even so late as 1608, “By a decree of the Lords Commissioners of Teinds, the parish of Bervie is decerned to remain a part of the parish of Kinneff, and because there was no bridge on the river of Bervie, the minister of Kinneff agreed to keep a suffragan at Bervie.” (Former Statistical Account). But while the boundaries of the parish were thus more extensive, the places of worship were also more numerous than now. In addition to Kinneff, Bervie, and Catterline, there seems to have been religious service in Barras, at the chapel of St John. At what time this chapel fell into disuse does not appear, but the right of presenting to it is several times mentioned in the seventeenth century.† That it may have

* See Memorial relative to opening the great valleys of Strathmore and Strathearn, by Robert Stevenson, Civil Engineer. Edinburgh, 1821.

† In 1631, Alexander Stratoun, of that ilk, was served heir to his father in the lands of Herbourscheillis, Glassland, &c. “cum advocacione (patronage, advowson) capellarie de St John in Kinneff vocatae Barras.” (Inquis. Spec. Kincard. No. 56). Ten years later, it is found in the hands of another family, for, in 1641, Parliament passed a ratification in favour of William Gray, and of his son, the Master of

had some connection with the Knights-Templars has been inferred, partly from its name, (the chapel of St John), and partly from other circumstances. In 1632, among the lands in which Sir Robert Arbuthnott was served heir to his father, we find "Terris templariis de Kinneff infra parochiam de Kinneff." These "terrae templariae" would seem to have belonged at some period to the Knights of the Temple. There is still a house in the parish well known by the name of the Temple, and there is the hill of St John, at the foot of which lies a farm called the Chapel of Barras.

The first minister of Kinneff after the Reformation was Mr Alexander Keith. From the "Register of Ministers and their Stipendis sen the year 1567," printed for the Maitland Club, he appears to have held the parishes of Katerling, Barvie, Arbuthnott, and Garvott, in addition to Kinneff, and to have enjoyed in all an income of L.26. He was succeeded by Mr James Raitt, who died in 1620. Mr James Strachan, the next incumbent, was deposed at the period of the second Reformation in 1639.* To him succeeded Mr James Granger, who died in 1663. At that period, Episcopacy having been established, James Honeyman, brother to the Bishop of Orkney, was appointed to Kinneff, which he held till his death in 1693. He was succeeded by his son Andrew, who, in the call inserted in the session records, under date March 19, 1693, is described as a preacher of the Gospel, and who appears to have continued without ordination till 1702. On his death in 1733, he was succeeded by his son James, who, again, in 1780, was followed by a son of the same name, the latter surviving only for a single year. For four generations, during 118 years, the parish had thus been held by the members of a single family. Mr Patrick Stewart was settled in May 1782, and his son, Mr Allan Stewart, as assistant and successor in September 1818.

Gray, of all the lands in which they were infest, among others, the lands of Kinneff, with the tower thereof, and the patronage of the chaplainry of the chapel of Barras. —Acts of Parliament of Scotland, Vol. v. p. 625.

* He must have been a very zealous partizan, for, when Episcopacy was again in the ascendant, we find Parliament (3d May 1661), granting him the sum of L.100 Sterling, in consideration that he "has been put to great sufferings these many yeares bygone; and alwayes given constant testimony of his loyaltie and affection to the King's Majestie, and injustly deposed from his service at the kirk of Kinneff for the same."

Wodrow says that Archbishop Gladstones, in his youth, was minister of "the church of Saint Kenneth, in the shire of the Mearns." (Biograp. Collect. I. p. 234). Kinneff is probably meant, but I have been unable to find any confirmation of the statement.

It was in 1709 that the parish of Catterline was united to that of Kinneff, an addition of 300 merks being made to the living.

The present parish church was built in 1738,* repaired in 1784, and again in 1831. It is situated close to the sea, and extremely inconvenient for a great part of the parishioners. The sittings furnished are 424, a number insufficient for the parish, and this evil is rendered the greater, from the circumstance that they are divided according to the valued rent, in consequence of which arrangement many of the proprietors do not possess nearly the legal accommodation required by the tenants and their servants.

The manse was built also in 1738, and has been twice enlarged and repaired. The stipend consists of 16 chalders, one-half being barley and the other oatmeal. The value is fixed according to the fiars prices and paid in money. The two glebes of Kinneff and Catterline are worth about L.28. The usual allowance of L.8, 6s. 8d. is made for communion elements.

The communicants on the roll of the Established Church average about 430. The only Dissenters in the parish are eighteen families of Scottish Episcopalians, two Seceders, three Independents, and one Berean.

During the past year there was collected in the church for religious objects, L.10, 15s. 4d. There is an annual collection for the Aberdeen Infirmary, amounting to from L.7. to L.8.

Education.—The history of the parish school of Kinneff forms an instructive example of the difficulties which the Church of Scotland has sometimes met in promoting the interests of education. Notwithstanding the repeated acts of the Legislature, enjoining the heritors of every parish to “provide a commodious house for a schoole, and modifie a stipend to the schoolmaster,” we find the kirk-session of Kinneff at a comparatively late period complaining, that “all endeavours to induce the heritors to call one to be schoolmaster had been fruitless.” Mr Honeyman, therefore, and his elders, considering “the necessity of having a weel qualified schoolmaster for teaching the youth within the parish,” resolved of themselves to procure one. On Sabbath, April 8th 1705, the minister intimated from the pulpit, that, “conform to ane act and appointment of the session, he had used his endea-

* The former church, in which the Regalia lay concealed, is thus described as it stood in the days of the Rev. Andrew Honeyman: It is “a very old fabric, the walls thereof being supported with eight strong butriabes, and the roof by pillars of wood, so that probably it is the oldest country church presently possessed and in use of any in Scotland.” Macf. MSS. I. p. 323, Adv. Lib. Jac. v. 4, 21.

vous for procuring a schoolmaster, and that he had desired one Mr Robert Gray to come this length, who, being cloathed with sufficient testimonials from the masters of the Marischal College of Aberdeen, offers to officiate as schoolmaster in this parish. The minister also desired that the heads of families might stay a little and signifie their inclinations with respect to their having this young man settled as schoolmaster, and if they would contribute for his encouragement and maintainence; to which the pluralitie replied they were satisfied, and should contribute." The teacher having been thus appointed seems to have laboured for four years without any regular school-house, which it was still left to the session to provide. Accordingly, in May 1708, "the session, considering the great loss this parish is at for want of a school within their bounds, think fit to advance money out of the box (poor's funds) for building a school near the church, and recommended to the several parishioners to contribute for making up the box again; and this day the minister gave three pounds Scots for that end." The measures thus taken appear to have been successful; but Mr Honeyman was still resolved to have the school put on a more permanent and satisfactory footing. In 1718, a decret, was obtained from the Court of Session, assigning to the schoolmaster the annual salary of 200 merks; and, in 1720, an allowance of L.90 Scots was made by the heritors for the school and schoolmaster's dwelling. Much difficulty seems to have been felt in obtaining payment of these sums, and it was only after long delay that every obstacle was removed.*

* One of the heritors deserves to be mentioned, as manifesting an enlightened regard for the interests of education. Robert Young of Stank having on his deathbed left verbally the sum of 100 merks Scots, to be disposed of within the parish for such purpose as his son John Young of Hilton might think fit, "it was pactioned and agreed unto by the said John Young that the said one hundred merks be employed by the minister and elders for supporting a sufficient schoolmaster within the bounds of the said parish of Kinneff." This was four months before the first steps were taken by the session.

The expense of erecting the school-house falling in the first instance on the session funds, various details are given in the record, and some of these may not be devoid of interest. Thus we find them paying, in Scots money:

For "winning stones to build the school,	L.8	0	0
To masons,	20	0	0
For timber for the school and schoolmaster's chamber,	17	0	0
For broom (thatch),	1	18	0
To divotors,	4	0	0

These sums, with the other outlay, seem to have been covered by the allotment of L.90 Scots (1.7, 10s. Sterling), subsequently made by the heritors. With the salary there was great difficulty. The kirk-session complain of an attempt on the part of several heritors to prevail on the schoolmaster to accept of "one hundred merks of salary instead of the two due in law (by decret of the Court of Session) to the schoolmaster of Kinneff." They could, therefore, the value and amount of

In the parochial school at present, along with the more common branches of education, Latin, geography, and occasionally Greek are taught. The teacher enjoys the maximum salary. There are three unendowed schools, and during the winter season there are upwards of 120 children receiving instruction in the parish. The amount of school-fees is low, the usual charges being from 2s. to 6s. a quarter.

Library.—A parochial library was established in 1838, and consists chiefly of religious books. There are at present 158 readers. A juvenile library in connection with the Sabbath school has 60 readers.

Savings Bank.—For many years, a Savings bank existed in the parish, and was of great benefit. In 1840 a branch of the Stonehaven National Security Savings Bank was established in Bervie, intended among others for the parishioners of Kinneff. The funds of the latter institution are rapidly increasing.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—There are 30 permanent paupers on the roll, receiving at an average L.2, 2s. 2d. a-year, and 3 occasional paupers receiving about L.1, 1s. Its funds in 1840 were, church collections, L.45, 8s. 9½d.; interest of legacies, L.6, 9s. 6d.; mortcloth dues and voluntary contributions, L.10, 5s. In 1841, two bequests were received by the session, of L.100 each, from the late Sir Joseph Straiton,—one for promoting education, and another for encouraging industrious habits among the poor.

Inns.—There are three inns or alehouses, and one holding a license to sell beer. Though more numerous than is necessary, no very perceptible evil effect has been produced by them on the population, who are in general sober.

Fuel.—Broom, peats, and whins are, to a limited extent, used as fuel, but sea-borne coal from Northumberland is by far more generally employed by all classes. From 4s. to 4s. 6d. per boll is the usual price.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the last Statistical Account was written, agriculture has advanced generally in the parish, and especially on the property of Barras. A very beneficial change also has been effected by the suppression of smuggling. The nature of the coast, with its bays and headlands, and its distance from any custom-house, rendered

the superior church judicatories, "as being a case of great importance, both to us, and many other parishes in the northern bounds, where schools may be kept vacant on purpose that heritors may not be obliged to pay the salary." March 15, 1719.

it, in former times, only too well known for this illicit traffic; and Mr Stewart had reason to complain of the "drunkenness, theft, and perjury" thus occasioned among his parishioners. Through the vigilance of the Coast-Guard station, established at Catterline, smuggling has now been long unknown. Bothies have been introduced on most of the larger farms,—young unmarried servants living together, and often left without efficient moral control. The demoralizing influence of such a system on the agricultural population is becoming painfully apparent, and deserves the serious attention of all who would promote their temporal or religious welfare.

August 1842.