

PARISH OF GLENISLA.

PRESBYTERY OF MEIGLE, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS.

THE REV. JAMES WATT, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THIS parish occupies the vale or glen through which flows the river Isla, until it leaves its native mountains,—a circumstance from which it has obviously taken its name.

Extent and Boundaries.—The parish is of an irregular form, of which the extreme length, in a straight line, is 18 miles, and the extreme breadth 6, and contains about 62.15 square miles, or 39,776 square acres. It is bounded on the north, by the parishes of Crathie, and Clova (united to Cortachy); on the east, by Kirriemuir, Lintrathen, and Airlie; on the south, by Alyth; and on the west, by Alyth and Kirkmichael.

Topographical Appearances.—Glenisla is terminated on the north by that part of the mountain-barrier which separates Aberdeenshire from Forfarshire, at the extreme north-west corner of the latter county. From thence proceed southwards two lofty ranges, which form for a short way, with intervening mountains, the small pastoral vales of Glenbrichty, Caanlochan, and Dalchallie. These mountain ranges afterwards proceed in a nearly southern direction, and bound the parish on the east and west, until within a very short distance of its southern extremity. The hill of Kilry divides it into two districts of nearly equal size. It stretches across it from its western boundary in an eastern direction, leaving only a narrow defile, by which the Isla debouches on the east. From the north side of this hill, the mountain-chain, already mentioned as determining the eastern boundary, is beheld resolving itself for a few miles into three massy ranges, parallel to each other, and forming the two narrow pastoral districts drained by the burns of Pitlochrie and Glenmarkie. From the opposite side of the Kilry Hill is seen a chain of hills stretching westwards, bounding the vale of Kilry on the south, and forming the southern extremity of the parish. A narrow

stripe of the parish extends from the eastern termination of this chain of hills down to Airlie Castle. This stripe of land is bounded on the north by the Isla, and on the south by a small rivulet which separates the shires of Forfar and Perth. The lowest of the mountain-ranges of Glenisla is about 1400 feet above sea-level. From the foot to the centre of the parish, they are bleak and uninteresting in their character. Northward from thence, they gradually assume the attributes of real alpine scenery, and terminate in the Glassmile,*—a mountain which is upwards of 3000 feet above the level of the sea.

Mount Blair, from its isolated position, is the most conspicuous hill in the parish. It belongs to the western bounding range, which is indented on the north and south sides of this mountain by narrow passes leading into Glenshee and the district of Blackwater. Mount Blair is of large circumference, and elevated above the level of the sea about 2260 feet. On the east and west it is of moderate acclivity, and is often ascended by strangers for its commanding view. On the other sides it is steep and broken. It has two summits;—the lower one flat and of a longitudinal form; the other one precipitous, and crowning its southern verge. On gaining the top of this precipitous summit, the toils of his ascent are, in clear and serene weather, immediately forgotten by the tourist, from the extensive and varied views which present themselves. His eye ranges with delight over the rich and beautiful districts intervening between him and the German Ocean, the Lammermoor, Pentland, and Ochil Hills, which bound the prospect on the east and south,—while he beholds, in the opposite directions, Shichallion, Ben-Mac-Dui, Ben-A'an, and Lochnagar, raising their mighty forms amidst an ocean of mountains.

Hydrography.—There are several perennial springs in the parish of great magnitude and purity. Of these the Lady Well, close by the manse, and the Well of Coryvannoch, near the base of Mount Blair, are the most noted. The temperature of the former is 48°, that of the latter 46°. The Coryvannoch Well, although not a chalybeate, was, in former times, much resorted to by the people of the district on the first Sabbath morning of May. It was then considered to be particularly efficacious to sickly children, more especially about day-break. The parents of such failed not, in

* There is a prop of stones on the western verge of the Glassmile, which is deserving of notice by reason of its locality,—resting, as it may be said to do, upon three parishes,—Glenisla, Kirkmichael, and Crathie; and also upon three counties,—Forfar, Perth, and Aberdeen.

consequence, to have them conveyed thither at a very early hour. Trinkets of various sorts were thrown into the well by those who had used its waters, either as thank-offerings or with the view of preserving its sanatory virtues. These qualities, however, it seems to be regarded as having now-a-days lost, as it is seldom drunk of but by the passing shepherd, or those whom curiosity, arising from its former reputation, induces to pay it a visit.

Some of the springs are a slight chalybeate; but in general they are without any traces of mineral impregnation.

The Isla is the principal river in the parish. It takes its rise in the wilds of Caanloch, and runs, in general, in a south-easterly direction, until it join the Melgum at the bottom of the parish, and immediately behind Airlie Castle. The average breadth, depth, velocity, and body of water of the Isla, in so far as it is connected with the parish, are as follows: breadth in feet, 47; depth in feet, 1.2; velocity in feet per minute, 116.28; flow in cubic feet per minute, 8248.5; flow in gallons per minute, 5141.22. To the admirers of wild and romantic scenery the Isla, as it approaches the lower extremity of the parish, has many objects of peculiar attraction. From the Bridge of Milna-Craig downwards, the bed and banks of the river assume an entirely new character, and every spot is interesting, either from the beauty of its foliage, or the hugeness of its crags, or the fearful struggling of its waters. The cataract of the Reekie-Linn, a short way below the bridge just mentioned, is undoubtedly one of the most splendid and remarkable features of our Scottish rivers. Here the Isla, having an average flow of about 11,000 cubic feet, is suddenly opposed by projecting barriers of rock, unless at a narrow gorge, whence it dashes from a height of 60, and almost immediately after from another height of 20 feet. In both cases, it throws the whole weight of its waters upon serrated masses of rock in the gulf below, thus creating reverberation that seems to shake the solid barriers, 120 feet in height, which surround it, and sending up a spray that shrouds them in perpetual mist, and rises to the height of the beautiful sylvan scenery which crowns their summits.

The rocks, the falls, and "the deep placid pool below" are seen to great advantage from a rustic bower, erected by John Hill, Esq. the proprietor, on the south bank of the river.

Nearly two miles further down the Isla are the Slugs of Auchrannie. The upper one is the most deserving of notice. Here the river is suddenly contracted by stupendous cliffs into a space

scarcely exceeding three yards in breadth. Through this frightful chasm the deep boiling flood forces itself with tremendous power, and, in curling wreaths of foam, thunders down a steep broken channel, of considerable length, into a gloomy but spacious ravine, walled by rocks quite perpendicular and of great altitude. These are surmounted by a profusion of trees, exceedingly rich and varied in their foliage, which the hand of man never planted, and many of which he will never dare to approach. Altogether, the scenery of this remarkable spot, whether viewed from the head of the Slug, or the summits of the lofty banks of the river, is extremely grand and imposing.

Geology.—The parish extends over a surface which takes in a part of the primitive, the whole of the transition rocks, and a portion of the secondary or old red sandstone series. From its extreme northern boundary south to below Mount Blair, the rocks are gneiss and mica-slate, the latter being the most prevalent. The strata dip very rapidly, chiefly towards the north-west. These rocks are accompanied by large masses of quartz, and are thickly studded with crystals of the common garnet, of considerable beauty, but of no economic value. At the base of Mount Blair and in its neighbourhood, some beds of limestone also prevail, but in rather inconsiderable masses. It is of a bluish-gray colour, and is wrought for burning. The kilns used for that purpose are generally small, ill-constructed, and inefficient. The lime is broken in small pieces like road-metal, and burned with peats. This process of calcination, although feeble and expensive, is now generally adopted by the farmers of the district, and the manure thereby obtained produces very powerful effects. The limestone itself contains a considerable proportion of siliceous matter, with, however, very few other impurities. South of Mount Blair, the greywacke series begins. Nearly opposite the manse, it first makes its appearance in masses near the river. It is here a conglomerate, having a dirty ochrey hue, unless where frost-broken. Descending the glen, about half-way to Lintrathen, the character of this rock becomes totally changed. It here assumes the aspect of fine-grained sandstone, and furnishes very perfect examples of greywacke slate. Fine crystals of brown spar are found imbedded in the rock. At Kilry is found a thin bed of transition clay-slate. It is the same which cuts across Scotland from sea to sea, and furnishes the slates of the Stormont, Newtyle, &c. The whole mass of strata is here about 40 feet thick, and dips to the north-west at

an angle of about 70° . The plates, however, could not be obtained in great breadth, nor cut up so thin as to make them be much sought after for the purpose of roofing. A short way down from this is the burn of Kilry, where porphyry appears, and where Jasper is found of such excellent qualities as to be much prized by the lapidary. Pursuing the line of the Isla, we find the stratification very complicated and irregular. Near the bridge of Milnacraig, conglomerate of the old red sandstone appears. At the bridge itself, it dips at an angle of about 7° north. At the fall, 200 yards below the bridge, the dip suddenly changes from this to one of about 73° south. This sudden change in the stratification seems to have occasioned the splendid cataract of the Reekie Linn already noticed. Half a mile lower down, an enormous mass of felspar porphyry makes its appearance. The scenery here, in a picturesque point of view, is very magnificent. A massy vein of black basalt crosses the river still lower down; and at the Slug of Auchrannie, conglomerate prevails. Soon after this, old red sandstone is visible, dipping at first towards the north at an angle of 70° , but suddenly changing as it approaches the line of the Barry-hill of Alyth, at the extreme south-east corner of the parish, it dips south at an angle of 60° . The sandstone makes an excellent building stone. The alluvial matter in the parish consists chiefly of irregular deposits of till and of water-worn gravel.* The latter, along with moss, enters largely into the composition of the soils in the upper district. These are in consequence generally loose and friable, but when well wrought and manured, yield pretty abundantly, most of the different species of cultivated plants. In the lower district, the rocks are covered by a thick deposit of clayey till. The soil is hence tenacious and unfertile until well-drained, when it produces, especially when manured with lime, heavy crops of grass and all kinds of grain.

Zoology.—Of the rarer species of animals we have the following; *Lepus variabilis*, alpine or white hare, on the higher mountains; *Cervus Elaphus*, the stag, and *C. Capreolus*, the roebuck, in the Earl of Airlie's forest, Caanlochan. *Falco Chrysaetos*, the golden eagle; *F. ater*, black eagle; *F. Albicilla*, the erne; and *F. Milvus*, the kite or gled. These occupy the steepest cliffs of Caanlochan. *Corvus corax*, the raven; *C. corone*, the carrion crow; and *C. cor-*

* For the above information on the Geology of the parish, I am much indebted to Mr G. Buist, author of the Highland Society's Prize Essay on the Geology of Perthshire.

nix, the hooded crow, chiefly on the higher mountains. *Scolopax arquata*, curlew, and *Charadrius pluvialis*, golden plover, breed on the hills. *Tetrao tetrix*, the blackcock. Birds of this species had become pretty numerous until the winter of last year, when many of them were destroyed by the severity of the storm. *Tetrao Lagopus*, the ptarmigan, in the highest mountains of the parish; *T. attagen* or *Scoticus*, red grouse or moorfowl. This species is found in all seasons of the year as far south as the hill of Kilry, although in largest numbers towards the head of the parish. *Falco peregrinus*, peregrine falcon. Birds of this species frequent the rocks of Auchrannie, also the cliffs at the entrance of Caanlochan. *Lacerta agilis*, the nimble lizard; *L. vulgaris*, common lizard.

The salmon is not found in the Isla above the slug of Auchrannie. Common trouts are abundant in all the streams of the parish, but are rather inconsiderable in size.

Botany.—The Glenisla district abounds in alpine plants, more particularly Caanlochan, the small valley already mentioned as situated at the head of the parish, and where the mountains attain an elevation of upwards of 3000 feet. To this part of the glen the attention of botanists has been more especially directed, and here it is that they have met with the rarest species in Britain, and even with plants which are peculiar to this station alone. The vegetation on all the elevated hills of the glen is similar to that of other mountainous districts in Scotland. The following list, with which I have been kindly favoured by Professor Balfour of Glasgow, will prove interesting to the botanist. It enumerates plants which are of rare occurrence on our Scottish Alps, but which grow in considerable abundance in Caanlochan, viz. *Thalictrum alpinum*; *Thlaspi alpestre*, a plant found nowhere in Scotland except in Caanlochan. *Lychnis alpina*, a species for which the only British station is on little Gilrannoch, near the head of Glenisla, *Potentilla alpestris*, *Dryas octopetala*, *Cherleria sedoides*, *Cerastium alpinum*, *Saxifraga nivalis*, *Erigeron alpinus*, *Saussurea alpina*; *Sonchus alpinus*, one of the rarest British plants found in three or four stations in Caanlochan. *Azalea procumbens*, *Pyrola rotundifolia*, *Gentiana nivalis*, a plant, the only British stations for which are Caanlochan and Ben Lawers. *Veronica alpina* and *saxatilis*, *Salix reticulata*, *lanata*, *arbutifolia*, *Juncus trifidus* and *castaneus*, *Carex atrata*, *phæostachya*, *rariflora* and *aquatilis*, *Alopecurus alpinus*, *Phleum alpinum*, and *Aira alpina*.

On the lower grounds in the parish there are no plants peculiarly worthy of notice, except *Rumex aquaticus*, which occurs in some places pretty abundantly.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners are, taking them in order, according to the value of their lands, the Earl of Airlie; James Rattray, Esq. of Kirkhillocks; John Smyth, Esq. of Balharry; and Sir James Ramsay, Bart. of Bamff.

Parochial Registers.—The oldest volume of the parish registers commences in the beginning of the year 1704, and ends in 1723. The next volume commences 1741, and ends 1806. The last commences in November 1806, and contains the records from that period until the present year. These registers are pretty well kept, but none of them appear to be complete.

Antiquities.—The Castle of Fortar, as an object of antiquity, and as identified in history with the “troubles of Scotland,” is deserving of notice. It is situated at the head of the principal part of the glen, which it has evidently been constructed with the view of commanding, along with the adjoining passes leading to Glen-shee and Braemar. A part of the walls is yet almost entire, from which, with others in a ruinous condition, it appears to have been a place of considerable size and strength. This castle was a mountain-keep of the Ogilvies of Airlie, and was frequently occupied by them until the year 1640, when it was plundered and destroyed by the Earl, afterwards Marquis of Argyle. In the indictment of the Marquis in 1661, special allusion is made to that event.* And the following quaint narrative of it is given by Spalding in his “History of the Troubles, &c. of Scotland.”† “Now the Committee of Estates finding no contentment in this expedition,”—an expedition directed by the Earls of Montrose and Kinghorn against the house of Airlie,—“and hearing how their friends of the name of Forbes and others in the country were daily injured and oppressed by Highland lymmers broken out of Lochaber, clan Gregor out of Brae of Atholl, Brae of Mar, and divers other places, therefore they give order to the Earl of Argyle to raise men out of his own country, and first to go to Airly and Furtour, two of the Earl of Airly’s principal houses, and to take in and destroy the same, and next to go upon the lymmers and punish them. Likewise conform to his order, he raises an army of about 5000 men,

* Wodrow’s Hist. Book 1st, cap. ii.

† Vol. i. anno 1640.

and marches towards Airly; but the Lord Ogilvie, hearing of his coming with such irresistible force, resolves to flee and leave the house manless: and so for their safety they wisely fled; but Argyle most cruelly and inhumanly enters the house of Airly, and beats the same to the ground, and right sua he does to Furtour; syne spoiled all within both houses, and such as could not be carried they masterfully brake down and destroyed. Thereafter they fell to his ground, plundered, robbed, and took away from himself his men, tenants, and servants, their hails goods and gear, corns, and cattle whatsoever that they could get, and left nothing but bare bounds of sic as they could carry away with them, and what could not be destroyed they despitefully burnt up by fire."

In the course of last year a silver coin or medal, of Anselm Casimir, Elector Archbishop of Mentz, was turned up by the plough in one of the fields of Bellaty, in this parish. It is of the size and nearly the weight of a crown piece, and is in an excellent state of preservation. On the one side is a half-length figure of a venerable-looking old man, with the inscription ANSELMVS : CASIMIRVS : D : G : ARCHIEPI †. On the reverse is an escutcheon, complete in all its details, and surmounted by a mitre and cross, with the legend : S : ROM : IMP : PER : GER : ARCH : CA : P : E : MOG. The date of this curious relic may be pretty accurately conjectured, when it is stated that Anselm Casimir was Arch-Chancellor of the German empire, and Archbishop of Mentz, (Moguntium), in the year 1631, when that city was surrendered to Gustavus Adolphus, (Schiller's Thirty Years' War, Moir's Trans. Vol. ii. pp. 32-36.) A silver coin, apparently of the reign of James I. of Scotland, and one of Queen Elizabeth, bearing the date of 1594, have also been found on the same farm. It may be remarked, as tending in some measure to account for these discoveries, that Bellaty is in the immediate neighbourhood of the remains of Newton Castle. That castle is said to have belonged to the family of Airlie; but the vestiges of it are now so slight, that they can hardly be traced.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the parish has decreased very considerably since the return to Dr Webster in 1755, which was 1852. This decrease may, in a great measure, be attributed to the converting of several contiguous pendicles of land into one possession, a practice which has been occasionally adopted since the middle of last century; and more especially to the abolition of townships, by the

assignation of the allotments of each to one or two separate tenants. The numbers at each census are as follows:—

Amount of population in 1791,	1018
1811,	1209
1821,	1144
1831,	1129, viz. 566 males, and 563 females.
1841,	1134

The yearly average of births is	27
marriages,	8½
deaths,	14

The number of persons at present under 15 years of age is	377
betwixt 15 and 30,	284
30 and 50,	258
50 and 70,	139
upwards of 70,	36

From this last statement it appears, that, since 1831, there has been a decrease of population of 35,—a circumstance owing chiefly to the removal of several families to the neighbouring parish of Alyth.

There are twenty-one proprietors of land of the yearly value of L.50 and upwards; twelve of these reside in the parish, and nine are non-resident.

Of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, upwards of 50 years of age, the number is	29
The number of unmarried women upwards of 45, is	34

There is one fatuous person, a male; and four deaf and dumb, one male and three females.

A few of the families, originally from Kirkmichael parish, usually converse together in the Gaelic tongue; but the language generally spoken is the dialect peculiar to Angus-shire, with a slight approach, in the upper district, to the Gaelic accent.

Character of the People.—In their general character, the people are sober, obliging, and industrious; much attached to their native glen, and to one another; attentive and hospitable to strangers, and charitable to the wandering poor. They are regular in observing the public ordinances of religion, and the attendance of late, both at the week and Sabbath day-schools, evinces that they are manifesting an increasing anxiety for the moral and religious improvement of the young.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The number of cultivated imperial acres in the parish is about 3960, and of uncultivated upwards of 30,000. Of these a portion, equal to one-seventh of the present arable acres, might be profitably added to the cultivated land. The number of acres in a state of undivided common is about 4500, and the number under wood, natural and planted, may be 500. The planta-

tions are, for the most part, young, and consist chiefly of larch and Scotch fir, to which sorts of timber the soil appears most congenial.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land per imperial acre may be estimated at L.1. To the arable, however, is commonly annexed a portion of hillground, or the privilege of mountain pasture. The charge for grazing is, in the lower district, at the rate of L.2 per ox or cow, and in the upper district, on hill and bog pasture, from 12s. to 14s.; for a full-grown sheep, 1s. 6d.

Live-Stock.—The numbers of cattle, sheep, and horses are nearly as follows, viz. 231 horses, 1785 cattle, and 9680 sheep. The cattle are of the Angus and Highland breeds. The sheep are of the black-faced breed, and are brought, for the most part when young, from the Linton and Lanark markets.

Husbandry.—The rotation of cropping generally observed throughout the parish is that of six years, viz. 1. fallow; 2. corn sown out with grass seeds; 3. and 4. grass; 5. and 6. corn. This mode of cropping is, however, in many instances, about to give way to a rotation of seven years. The land will thus remain three years in grass,—a period of rest which seems necessary in order to keep it in a favourable state of production.

The general duration of leases is fourteen years,—a term which is obviously less favourable than one of nineteen to an active and industrious tenant.

Twenty-two of the proprietors farm their own lands. The farms vary in size from 8 to 200 acres and upwards, exclusive of untilled ground. Great attention is now paid to their drainage and culture. In the southern district especially, they are well laid out. Much has yet to be done in the way of fencing, although, in regard to a few of the larger farms, the fields are well enclosed. The farm-buildings are in general suitable to the possessions, and in tolerable repair. Several of them are of recent erection, and are at once substantial and commodious.

Provisions and Wages.—The price of provisions and rate of wages in 1791 and 1836 may be stated as under.

Provisions.	In 1791.	In 1836.
Beef and mutton per lb.*	L.0 0 3	L.0 0 6
Hens,	0 0 8	0 1 3
Chickens,	0 0 3	0 0 6
Pigs,	0 2 6	0 10 0
New butter per lb.	0 0 6	0 0 9½
Eggs per dozen,	...	0 0 6

* The pound, when not specified in this table, is, for 1791, the Dutch, and for 1836, the imperial pound.

Cheese per stone of 24 oz. per lb.	L.0 5 0	L.0 6 6
Oatmeal per boll,	0 15 0	0 18 8
Barley meal per boll,	0 10 6	0 14 0
Wages.		
Ploughmen per year, with maintenance,	7 10 0	13 0 0
Maid servants per year, with maintenance,	3 6 6	7 0 0
Labourers per day, average for the whole year,	0 1 0	0 1 6
Females Do. Do.	0 0 3	0 0 7
Masons, &c. Do. Do.	0 1 1	0 2 3

Amount of raw Produce.—This, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows :—

1650 arable Scots acres in corn, value of corn and straw at L.6 ^p acre,	L.9900 0 0
550 acres green crop at L.6, 10s. per acre,	3575 0 0
550 acres in hay at L.5 per acre,	2750 0 0
550 acres in pasture at L.1, 6s. per acre,	715 0 0
30000 imperial acres in unimproved pasture at 1s. per acre,	1500 0 0
	L.18,440 0 0

The valued rent of the parish is L.3440. The real rent may be about L.4300.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—The nearest post-office is at Meigle. There is, however, a sub-office at Alyth, which is the nearest market-town, and about eight miles from the church of Glenisla. Two lines of road are kept in repair by the Statute Labour Assessment,—the one leading to Alyth, the other communicating with Kirriemuir and Castletown of Braemar by the Spittal of Glenshee. The former of these is about eight and a half miles in length, the latter six. The other roads are, for the most part, imperfectly formed, and prove very indifferent means of communication. The bridges are four in number, of which two are of stone, one of iron, and one of wood. The two latter are intended chiefly for foot-passengers.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is centrally situated for the population; but, from the great length of the parish, and its mountainous nature, scarcely more than one-half of the inhabitants are within four miles of it. It was built in 1821, is in a good state of repair, and affords accommodation for 700 persons. The seats are allotted to the people according to the valued rent of the properties on which they reside. The manse was built in 1813, and is still in good condition. The glebe consists of about eight acres, Fifteen acres of moor land were lately added to it, by the division of a neighbouring common, three acres and three-quarters of which have since been improved. The whole would let for L.16. The amount of stipend is L.150, with L.8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

The number of families attending the Established Church, is—
 F F

cluding, in this number, single and unmarried persons having houses of their own, is 208, and the average number of communicants is 630. The number of Dissenters is 6, of which 3 are male heads of families. There are no Episcopalians, but occasionally 2 or 3 Catholics, servants, in the parish. Divine service is generally well attended, allowance being made for distance from the church, the bad state of the roads, and the mountainous character of the district.

Education.—There are 3 schools in the parish. Of these, one is parochial, one supported by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, and the other is unendowed. The parochial teacher has the legal accommodation and the medium salary. His salary, with school-fees, is about L.40 per annum. The income of the Society school teacher is L.20; and that of the unendowed teacher about L.18. The average rate of school-fees is 2s. 6d. per quarter. The branches commonly taught are reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, and geography. There are none of the young betwixt six and fifteen years of age who cannot read. Of persons upwards of fifteen, there are 3 who can neither read nor write. The schools are conveniently situated for the bulk of the population. The young, who reap not the full benefit of them, reside near the extremities of the parish, or in detached districts. These parts are so thinly inhabited, that the erection of schools in them is hardly to be expected. During the winter season the schools are well attended. In summer the attendance is comparatively small, a great proportion of the young being employed in herding cattle, &c. The Society school has proved a great blessing to the people in the upper district, where, by means of it, all the poorer children are taught gratis. An endowment for the school in the Burn of Kilry district is much wanted. Nearly two-fifths of the young are within a reasonable distance of it; and a moderate endowment, while it would reduce the price of education to the poor, would also secure permanently the services of an efficient teacher for that populous part of the parish.

Library.—A library in connection with the Sabbath schools has recently been established.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving regular aid from the parish is $8\frac{1}{2}$; and the average sum allotted to each per month, exclusive of house-rent, is 6s. The church collections for their relief amount to L.26 per annum. The interest of money lodged in the bank and other funds destined for the purpose, average nearly L.12 more, making the annual

income of the poor about L.38. The average number of persons receiving occasional aid from the funds is 4. The annual sum distributed amongst them is from L.3 to L.4. Generally speaking, the poor consider public aid as degrading, and are reluctant to apply for parochial relief.

Fairs.—There are two annual fairs. One of these, at which a few horses are offered for sale, is held on the 1st Wednesday of March, O. S. The other is held on the 1st Wednesday of August, O. S., for the sale of sheep and cattle.

Inns.—There are 4 small inns in the parish.

Fuel.—The fuel consists chiefly of peats, procured at various mosses, at the expense of making and carriage.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the date of the last Statistical Account, smuggling has been entirely suppressed; the statute labour has been converted into money, a change of system the good effects of which are every year becoming more apparent by the improved state of the roads; a stone and an iron suspension bridge have been thrown across the Isla; occupancy by runrig has, with a single exception, been abandoned; and one-third at least has been added to the cultivated land of the parish.

The reduction of the duty on ardent spirits, whatever bad consequences may have resulted from it elsewhere, has been productive of the best effects here, both in respect of the morals and industry of the population. By putting an end to illicit distillation, it has been the means of directing the efforts of the people towards extensive agricultural improvements. And the consequences are, that while formerly, to use the words of the last Statistical Account, "the grain produced in this district was not sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants," several thousand bolls of it are now, unless in very unfavourable seasons, annually sent to the market. While formerly most of the families laboured in a vocation at once dishonourable, debasing, and yielding them at best a precarious means of subsistence, they are now actively engaged in pursuits which tend to enhance their own comfort in every point of view, and to benefit the public. These happy results are already so apparent, that the suppression of smuggling, which was at first generally bewailed as a great parish calamity, is now unanimously acknowledged to have proved a positive parish blessing.

It should also be mentioned, that upwards of 10,000 acres of hill ground have, in course of the last twelve years, been divided among those proprietors by whom they were formerly held in com-

mon. Several of these allotments in the lower district are already covered with thriving plantations. This is one of the good effects of the division of commons, which, it is to be hoped, will in a few years be more generally observed in the parish: while the improvement of live-stock, and an additional quantity of land under tillage, are other results from the same cause, which may pretty confidently be anticipated.

It is matter of regret that neither the advantages of their industry, nor the benefits of public worship, have, hitherto, been sufficiently enjoyed by the people here, from the want of a proper line of road to connect the upper and the lower districts with each other. The present line, which crosses the hill of Kilry, is, from its steepness, always inconvenient, and in winter storms, from its great elevation, frequently impassable. It was lately proposed to abandon this road for one that should communicate with Strathmore by the eastern base of Kilry, and be connected by a bridge, near the church, with the road from Kirriemuir to Braemar, already noticed in this report. With respect to the economy and industry of the parish, this would be an improvement of the greatest consequence, while, by rendering Glenisla an easy channel of communication between Newtyle and the north of Scotland, it would, in a public point of view, be of no small importance.

August 1842.