

PARISH OF CARESTON.

PRESBYTERY OF BRECHIN, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS.

THE REV. DAVID LYELL, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, &c.—Many centuries before the erection of this parish, the lands of which it consists are said to have taken their name from Carald, a Danish leader, who, in his flight from the battle of Aberlemno, was slain, not far from the present farm-house of Nether-Careston; and, in order to perpetuate the memory of this achievement, his victors raised over his place of sepulture a barrow, and on it erected an obelisk, named from him Carald-stane, or Carald's-stone, contracted afterwards into the more modern term Careston. The obelisk has long since been removed, but the barrow yet remains.* Others derive the name of this parish from the ancient but now disused Celtic word *carald*, which at one time denoted the quality *red*, as being the colour of the rock which forms the middle portion of the subsoil of this parish. But if so, why should the compound word *Carald-stone* be formed from both the Gaelic and Saxon languages instead of that of the former alone, and then it would thus have been expressed *Fearn-carald*, rock-red?† It may still be added, that at one time this parish

* See the Topography of the River Tay, by Mr James Knox, p. 115.

† *Fearn* in old Gaelic signifies rock. See the Quarterly Review for November 1831, and January 1832, p. 349. In the Gaelic tongue, the adnoun is always placed after the noun to which it refers. That *fearn* signified rock in former times appears to be farther borne out from this term being applied to the Fearn Isles, or rocks on the coast of Northumberland, on one of which (Longstone) the worthy family of Darlings reside; North Faro or Ferro, beyond Shetland; and Ferro, one of the Canaries. Our neighbouring parish seems, too, to have had its name of Fearn, from its subsoil of rock, which crops out from the ground in the vicinity of its church. There is also a parish in the north named Fearn or rock.

bore the name of Fuirdstone, or Fordstone, from the number of good fords in the Esk, that exist yet in this district.*

Boundaries, Figure, and Extent.—This parish is bounded by those of Menmore, on the north; Brechin, on the east; Aberlemno, on the south; and Tannadice, together with Fearn, on the west.

In figure, it forms an irregular oblong, stretching out in length to about 3 miles from north to south, by 1 in breadth from east to west. On two sides, the boundaries are pretty regular and straight, but on the two ends of the oblong, the limits are more irregular, more especially to the south, where, in two different places, they pass beyond the river Southesk. The parish contains a surface of nearly 3 square miles. Agreeably to a measurement made, about eight years ago, by Mr William Corsar, land-surveyor, this parish contains upwards of 2056 acres statute measure. Formerly, it contained perhaps about 100 imperial acres more, now belonging to the farms of Balnabrieck and Craigend, which farms, though they both belong to the estate of Careston, are yet situated in the parish of Brechin; consequently, whatever ground was lost to Careston parish by the straightening of the marches of these farms, was so much added to that of Brechin, where this latter parish unites with Careston.

From the Southesk river, which, for a small way, forms the southern limits of this parish, it rises with a gentle undulating swell to near its northern termination, and then begins to decline as it stretches farther north to its termination with the lands of Balhall, in Menmore parish. Here, the boundary is by no means distinct, which it might easily have been made by following the course of the small rivulet of Wiras westward as far as the parish extends in that quarter; as this same streamlet, where it leaves the parish on the east, forms the parochial boundary on the north-east.

The climate is on the whole good, the air being, for the most part, pure and salubrious.

* The present incumbent has in his possession a decret of valuation of the teinds, of date 1756, wherein the lands of Careston are designed by the name of Fuirdstone, in the following manner: "All and whole, these parts of the lands and barony of Careston, *alias* Balnamoon, particularly after specified, *viz.* the lands and barony of Caraldstone, formerly called Fuirdstone, with the tower, fortalice, manor-place," &c.

The tower of Fuirdstone referred to was situated on the farm of Wester Balnabrieck, and its remains were removed by the late tenant in the course of his improvement of the above farm. It is not unlikely that the fore-mentioned tower and other buildings therewith connected constituted the first mansion-house on the estate of Careston.

Hydrography.—There are several small brooks in this parish, all of which take their rise in it from copious fountains of excellent water. Some of our springs are chalybeate; and two large ones, in the northern part of the parish, in a slight degree partake of carburetted hydrogen gas, which is indicated by large and numerous air-bubbles rushing up in the fountain along with the water. Everywhere we have plenty of good spring water for domestic use.

The pure streams of the Noran and the South Esk flow through and unite together in this parish.* The water of the former is so peculiarly limpid, that there is yet a tradition that one of our queens, in olden time, washed her curtb or cap in its stream, near the place where the farm-house of Nether Careston is now situated, and pronounced the Noran to be the clearest stream in Scotland. The South Esk, too, is a clear water, sparkling with a mild cerulean tint, yet it cannot vie with the stream of the singularly pellucid Noran. Both, for a great way of their course, flow over a bed of either rock or gravel, and hence the purity of their several waters. The South Esk requires a good deal of labour annually to retain its water within its channel, and prevent it from overflowing and injuring the adjoining haugh lands.

There were formerly many small lakes, or rather ponds in this parish, some of which yet remain undrained; in particular, there is still a pretty considerable lake in the upper part of the parish, which might nearly be converted into arable ground; at least, about forty acres might be thus reclaimed. Indeed, it appears highly probable, from the general show of the ground itself, that a large portion of the haugh land on the side of the Esk had, at one time, constituted a lake of considerable magnitude.

Geology and Mineralogy.—Almost the only rock here is the old sandstone, of a pretty dark-red colour, and tolerably hard and solid in its texture. A rock of frequent occurrence is by some considered to be lias. It forms a considerable part of the subsoil of the middle portion of the parish; that to the north of it being till or diluvium; whereas in the more southerly district, the subsoil is generally gravel mixed with sand. In the till the gravel is commonly mixed with coarse clay or mortar, and is very retentive of moisture; but the case is quite different in this respect in the south end of the parish. There, in the haugh land, the sub-

* In the Statistical Account of Tannadice, page 199, it is stated that both the above streams unite in that parish, whereas they form their junction about a mile farther east, in the parish of Careston.

soil consists almost of gravel only, which is easily accounted for, from the very frequent changes of the river,—in so much, that, at one time or another, the Esk must have passed over the whole of the adjacent valley. Considerably above the haugh land, and near the middle part of the parish, moss prevails, under a thick sward of coarse grass, to no small extent in low places, especially in a western direction.

About thirty years ago, the present incumbent, in trenching a small part of the glebe that had never before been cultivated, found a piece of shell-marl, about the size of a man's head, in the bottom of the trench, under a thick covering of sand, rather more than three feet in thickness; but no more was met with there, nor, (as far as he could learn,) in any other part of this parish; although some nodules of rock-marl may occasionally be found by digging pretty deeply. In the small piece of the glebe that he then trenched, he met with three different subsoils: to the north, moss about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in thickness; in the middle, pure dark-red clay, of considerable thickness; and on the south, a thick bed of sand, where the marl was detected.

The soil of the parish, where not moorland, of which there is but little, is generally of a black loam, especially in its northern portion; but, as before observed, resting on till; this subsoil being very retentive of moisture, renders the incumbent soil far less productive than it otherwise would be; yet, still, when judiciously managed, it not only produces good green crops, but oats and barley too, in their proper rotation. On the north-west corner of the upper land of the parish, as the black loam rests mostly on sand, and the loam itself is thick and of good consistency; there, good crops may in general be more depended on than in the same northern quarter farther eastward. Were, however, surface-draining, by the help of tiles, or even divots, used, as is now judiciously done in the middle part of the parish, then a very great improvement in the agriculture of our northern farms would, doubtless, be effected, especially on each side of every ridge, now saturated with moisture. In the middle portion of this parish, the soil is still black; and lower down, it inclines somewhat to a reddish colour, and has a subsoil something like the former, only there is far less clay mixed with the gravel and sand, and, of consequence, less retentive of moisture. Still, however, even here, the tile-draining, or that by divots, a far cheaper mode of drying land from surface-water, must be productive of much good. Be-

neath the latter subsoil, the lias-rock is often found. Farther south, the rock wholly disappears; and there the subsoil consists of a very thick bed of gravel and sand; and as the land here is far drier, the less draining is requisite. Here, too, the soil becomes of a yet more red hue, and this is especially the case with the haugh-land. In that quarter, the soil is often but thin, and occasionally intermixed with hirsts of gravel, or gravel and sand; here, also, the ground, in dry seasons, yields but a stunted crop, being parched, and sometimes quite burnt up by the drought; and, in general, the haugh-land is far less productive than the adjoining upper ground, which is still more friable, and, for the most part, rests on a bed of gravel only.

In the upper part of the parish, large blocks of trap have been found amongst the till, together with considerable boulders of granite, gneiss, micaceous schistus, basalt, and greenstone; as also trap-tufa, either alone or mixed with specks of limestone; likewise, either along with these boulders, or alone, there are to be met with much smaller fragments of quartz, jasper, porphyry, serpentine, and trap and slate, all less or more rounded by the action of water in very ancient ages. By digging pretty deep, also some nodules of limestone have been brought into view, but no bed of it has been found. Sometimes the nodules of the limestone have been detected intermixed with the lias, and wherever this is the case, they then render the lias of a much harder consistency. In the lias, too, clusters of rock-crystals may occasionally be detected; sometimes, too, pebbles of chalcedony, veined with white carnelian, and intermixed with quartz, have occasionally been found; but generally they are very coarse, and of no value. The direction of the dip of the rock, in this parish, is towards the north. Many years ago, quarries were opened in different places, for stone fences; yet none have been wrought here, for upwards of forty years, for the above purpose; and when stones for building houses have been required, then recourse has been had to a quarry, on this estate, in our immediate vicinity, but situated in Brechin parish. There the rock is very hard, and requires not a little gunpowder to blast it.

Zoology—Mammalia.—

Order I. FERRA.
Cervus capreolus

II. FERRA.
Canis vulpes *

Mustela lutra
Arvicola amphibia

* Last spring, a two year old fox pursued a lame peacock round the castle, and having at length caught and killed the old lame bird near a hay-stack, the house-dog lodging there, killed the fox, and he and his prey were found in the morning, lying beside the dog, which was an Italian wolf-dog; and in the combat, the dog had his face well-marked by the fox.

Mustela Putorius
 ——— vulgaris
 ——— Erminea
 Talpa Europea*
 Meles taxus
 Erinaceus Europæus
 Lepus timidus
 ——— variabilis

Lepus cuniculus
 Sciurus vulgaris
 III. GLIRERA.
 Mus rattus
 ——— amphibius
 ——— sorex
 ——— Musculus

Mus sylvaticus
 ——— agrestis
 Sorex fodiens
 Myoxus avellinarius
 IV. VESPERTILIONES.
 Vespertilio murinus
 ——— auritus †

Ornithology.—A great variety of birds either belong to, or else occasionally visit this parish.

Aves.—

ORDER I. RAPTORES.
 Falco milvus
 ——— buteo
 Circus æruginosus
 ——— cyaneus
 ——— pygargus

Falco Æsalon
 ——— palumbarius
 ——— Tinnunculus
 ——— Nisus
 Strix Otus
 ——— Brachyotus

Strix flammea
 ——— Aluco et stridula
 ——— nyctea
 Lanius Collurio ‡
 Muscicapa grisola

It may here be mentioned, that, many years ago, a *Falco peregrinus* was caught in this parish. It was uncommonly large and vicious, quite different from the gentle falcon before spoken of.

Order II.—PICÆ.
 Corvus Corax
 ——— Coracias
 ——— Cornix
 ——— frugilegus
 ——— Monedula
 ——— pica
 ——— glandarius
 Picus major
 ——— minor
 Cuculus canorus
 Yunx Torquilla
 Sitta Europea
 Alcedo Ispida
 Certhia familiaris

III.—ANSERÆ.
 Anas Cygnus
 ——— anser‡
 ——— Segetum
 ——— Tadorna
 ——— Boschas
 ——— Strepera
 ——— forina
 ——— Querquedula
 ——— Crecca
 ——— Penelope
 Larus canus
 ——— ridibundus
 ——— marinus
 ——— tridactylus
 Sterna hirundo

Sterna minuta
 Colymbus glacialis‡
 ——— stellatus
 Uria troile
 ——— grylle
 Podiceps minor
 ——— cornutus
 IV.—GALLÆ vel RALLÆ.
 Ardea major
 ——— stellaris
 Ttinga cinerea
 Totanus hypoleucos
 ——— glottis
 ——— ochropus
 Vanellus cristatus
 Numenius arquata

* One mole was got here last spring, pure white as the new-fallen snow.

† One of the long-eared kind was blown down, along with the church belfry, in the great storm, 11th October 1838, and held fast by one of the large stones. The incumbent freed it, when it flew back to the church: being caught by its tail, it was uninjured.

‡ The wood-chat, *Lanius Collurio*, has been repeatedly seen here by the incumbent.

§ It may here be mentioned, that a pair of wild geese formed an association with a flock of tame geese belonging to Mr Skene, who caused great care to be taken of them, inasmuch, that they were regularly fed and housed, along with their domestic associates; with these they wintered for several years, and as regularly departed during the breeding season, and again returned to their former companions by the end of autumn, but unaccompanied with their young.

On the other hand, some tame ducks belonging to the farm of Nether Careston, on being repeatedly scared from the poultry house by dogs, first grew timid, and at last became quite wild, and flew away altogether. Afterwards, they were repeatedly observed flying about in the air like ordinary wild ducks; and at no great distance, some ducks quite light-coloured, like tame ones, have been sprung from marshy ground in the midst of a covey of wild ones.

¶ A specimen of the *Colymbus glacialis*, or ember-geese of Bewick, was shot here on the 21st October 1839, by the gamekeeper of Colonel Swinburn of Kearn, in this vicinity.

Numenius Phaeopus	Bombycilla garrula	Motacilla sylvia hortensis
Scelopax Rusticola	Saxicola Cyanthe	Parus major
———— Gallinago	———— rubetra	———— caeruleus
———— Gallinula	———— rubicola *	———— ater
———— calidris	Loxia curvirostra	———— caudatus
Charadrius marinellus	———— Eucleator	Hirundo urbica
———— hiaticula	———— pyrrhula	———— rustica
Hæmatopus ostralegus	———— chloris	———— riparia
Fulica vel Gallinula chlo-	Emberiza nivalis	———— apus
ropus	———— Miliaria	———— nyctichilidon Eu-
Fulica atra, vel gallinula	———— Citrinella	ropæus
Rallus crex	———— Schœniculus	AMPHIBIA.
———— aquaticus	Fringilla domestica	Rana temporaria
Crex Porzana	———— Coccythraustes	———— esculenta
	———— Chloris	———— bufo
	———— Colebs †	———— rubetra
V.—GALLINÆ.	———— Montifringilla	Lacerta vulgaris
Perdix Coturnix	———— Carduelis	———— aquatica vel Triton
Tetrao tetrix	———— Spinus	palustris
Phasianus Colchicus	———— sylvia phenicuperus	PISCES.
	———— cannabina, vel	Anguilla communis
	Linaria vel Linota	Petromyzon marinus
VI.—PASSERES.	Motacilla accento modularis	———— fluviatilis
Columba Ænas	———— salicaria	———— branchialis
———— palumbus	———— Boarula	Cottus Gobio
Alauda arvensis	———— flava	Perca fluviatilis
———— pratensis	———— alba	Gasterosteus aculeatus
———— arborea	———— atricapilla	Cobitis barbatula
Anthus trivialis	———— rubecula	Salmo Salar
Sturnus vulgaris	———— curruca	———— albus
Cinclus aquaticus	———— troglodytes	———— Trutta
Turdus viscivorus	———— trochillus	———— Fario
———— musicus	———— curruca salicaria	———— Thymallus
———— iliacus	———— sibilatrix	Cyprinus Phoxinus
———— pilaris		
———— torquatus		
———— Merula		

Insects, Worms, Testacea.—Of this numerous, diversified, and destructive race, we have many kinds, which it is quite unnecessary to specify. It may, however, be observed that of beetles, we possess a great variety;—from the *Scarabeus melolontha*, the cockchaffer, down to the *Curculio granarius*, or weevil, so destructive in granaries. Among these, it may, however, be noticed concerning the *Coccinella*, or lady-bird kind, that the juice of these insects, when crushed and applied to a carious tooth, is said to give relief, if not to cure the toothach. It also may be stated, that the *Cimex Americanus*, or the American bug, has lately come, or rather been brought, in some occult way, to the gardens at the house of Careston, and there proved most injurious to the fruit trees. Both in gardens, and even in our fields, we are at times annoyed not a little by different kinds of slugs, *Limaces*, more especially by the *Limax agrestis*, the small gray one, and by the *Limax flavus*, the amber-coloured slug. Among the *Vermes* or worms, we have that rather uncommon one, the

* This last *Motacilla* or chats are here termed Colchates.

† *Fringilla Colebs* species (vulgo, chaffinch or shilfaw), are here very numerous. *Fringilla sylvia phenicuperus* species, (vulgo, the redstart or rose-linnet), are not near so numerous as the chaffinch.

Gordius aquaticus, or hair-eel, found in fountains and ditches. Some time ago, we had the *Hirudo sanguisuga*, medicinal leech, in two of our small lakes or rather pools, but the creature has since disappeared. Of the Bivalve shells, we have yet the *Mya Margaritifera*, or fresh-water mussel, in which pearls of some size are occasionally found; and in some of our pools and streamlets, there is to be met with the *Turbo fontinalis*, or fresh-water wulk, whose shells form a great portion of shell marl. The substance of the *Julus terrestris*, or millipede, of which we have great plenty, is considered to be of service, when taken inwardly, as a remedy for jaundice.

Botany.—In a pool at Bracklawburn, and near the late farmhouse, there is found that very rare plant, *Stratiotes aloides*, or the fresh water soldier, discovered by the Rev. Mr Haldin of Kingoldrum. We have, likewise, in a similar situation:—

Trifolium palustre vel Me-	Agrostis stolonifera	Caltha palustris
nyanthes trifoliata	Hydrocotyle vulgaris	Pedicularis palustris
Sparganium ramosum	Veronica anagallis	Rumex paludosus
Eriophorum polystachion	————— scutellata	Drosera rotundifolia
Iris Pseudacorus	Galium palustre, album	Geum rivale
Rumex aquaticus	————— boreale	Pedicularis pratensis
Arundo phragmites	Ranunculus aquaticus	Hottonia palustris
Parnassia palustris	————— bulbosus	

In meadows and moors, we meet with,

Orchis Morio	Inula pulicaria	Dianthus deltoides
———— purpurea, β	Luteola reseda	Fragaria sterilis
Geum urbanum	Veronica serpyllifolia	Dianthus arenarius
Trollius Europeanus	Linum catharticum	Empetrum nigrum
Hyacinthus non-scriptus	Lychnis Flos-cuculi	

There grow on the path sides:—

Euphrasia officinalis	Marrubium vulgare	Primula vulgaris. β
Agrimonia Eupatoria	Viola inodora	————— veris

In our fields, there often are to be found:—

Agrostemma Githago	Arctium Lappa	Ranunculus hederaceus
Centaurea Cyanus	Rumex acetosa	————— Lingua
Lithospermum arvense	————— Acetosella, vel Ace-	————— auricomus
Papaver somniferum	tose lanceolata	Viola odorata
Lolium perenne	Anthemis nobilis	————— tricolor
Brassica Napus et campestris	Thymus Serpyllum	Poterium Sanguisorba
Sinapis nigra et arvensis	Mentha Pulegium	Silene inflata
Chrysanthemum segetum	Nepeta cataria	Chenopodium Bonus Hen-
————— Leucanthe-	Veronica Beccabunga	ricus
mum	Valeriana locusta	Veronica Chamaedrye
Tussilago Farfara	Leontodon taraxacum	

There are found in our woods:—

Bunium Bulbocastanum	Lysimachia nemorum	Fragaria vesca
Geranium sylvaticum	Epilobium angustifolium	Rubus fruticosus
Aemone nemorosa	Vincetoxicum	————— idaeus
Glechoma hederacea	————— major	Juniperus communis
Symphytum officinale	Vaccinium Myrtillus	Ligustrum vulgare

About hedges :—

<i>Ulmus campestris</i>	<i>Vicia sylvatica</i>	<i>Anthyllis Vulneraris</i>
<i>Lathyrus sylvaticus</i>	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	

On the banks of the Noran and our brooks, we have :—

<i>Narcissus Pseudo-Narcissus</i>	<i>Spiraea Ulmaria</i>	<i>Campanula glomerata</i>
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And on their higher banks, we have

<i>Rosa Eglanteria</i>	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	<i>Ligusticum scoticum</i>
— <i>canina</i>	<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>
— <i>arvensis</i>	— <i>montana</i>	<i>Inula Helenium</i>

On the banks of the Esk, besides some of those already mentioned as belonging to the Noran, we find the

<i>Tussilago petasitis</i>	<i>Ligusticum vel Athamanta</i>	<i>Valeriana officinalis*</i>
<i>Scilla verna</i>	<i>Meum</i>	<i>Sambucus Ebulus.†</i>
<i>Lychais dioica</i>		

Not a few plants that properly belong to the upper country or Highlands are to be met with on the banks, or rather low sides of Esk, being brought there in times of great floods, when the river overflows its ordinary channel. Before concluding the article of Botany, it may be stated that the *Geranium pyrenaicum* is said to be a sovereign remedy for the disorder St Anthony's fire, it being used both outwardly and inwardly; and that *Senecio vulgaris*, mixed with *Anthemis arvensis*, and boiled either in milk or in water, is then to be used as a lotion for removing a dead lump: Also that an equal mixture of *Digitalis purpurea* and *Conium maculatum*, boiled to the consistency of a liniment, to which a proper quantity of hog's-lard is to be added, is said to prove a good remedy for a cut, or even an ulcer: Also, that a mixture of *Chelidonium majus*, with a very little *Hyoscyamus niger*, and the root of the *Polygonum aviculare*, boiled in a quart of water, along with the whites of a few eggs, and a very little white vitriol, and then strained, may, after being cooled, be beneficially applied to sore or weak eyes. The Highlanders are said to use the *Orobus tuberosus*, under the notion of averting the pain of hunger; also the root of the *Inula Helenium* is said to be good for cows after calving.

Forest trees, &c. growing here :—

<i>Quercus Robur</i>	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	<i>Populus tremula</i>
<i>Ulmus campestris</i>	<i>Betula alba</i>	<i>Carpinus Betulus</i>
<i>Tilia Europæa</i>	— <i>alnus</i>	<i>Ilex Aquifolium</i>
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	<i>Populus alba</i>	<i>Æsculus hippocastanum</i>
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	— <i>nigra</i>	<i>Acer Pseudo-platanus</i>

* It is used with great efficacy in cases of lowness of spirits and other nervous disorders.

† This last, as well as the witch-hazel, were greatly employed in olden times, when there was a general belief in witchcraft.

Laurus nobilis	Pinus picea	Prunus cerasus
Corylus Avellana	——— larix	Mespilus oxyacanthus
Cytisus laburnum	——— abies	Robinia Pseudo-acacia
Daphne Laureola	——— alba	Sorbus domestica
——— Mezereum	Taxus baccata	Cratægus oxyacantha
Genista scoparia	Pyrus Malus	Syringa vulgaris
Myrtus arborea*	Prunus avium	Salices, many kinds
Acacia Ægyptiaca†	——— Padus	Ulex Europæus.
Pinus sylvestris	——— spinosa	
——— cedrus	——— domestica	

It may be here observed, that several larches of the late Mr George Skene's planting have attained to upwards of 5 feet in circumference at six feet from the ground; and an oak has grown more than 40 feet in height by a girth of 3 feet 9 inches at six feet from the ground,—both were planted in 1782. Some time before this, there was an oak planted by his father, which is now 6 feet 6 inches at six feet from the earth.

Size of some of the largest forest trees at Careston:—

A lime measures	15 feet	2 inches in circumference.
An ash,	14	4
An oak,	9	0
An elm,	8	9
A beech,	8	6
A plane,	7	6
A Spanish chestnut,	7	6
A horse-chestnut,	7	6
A poplar,	6	2
A birch,	4	6
A Scotch fir,	7	0
A spruce,	6	0
A larch,	5	10
Another plane,	10	6

This last was blown down by the storm of the 11th October 1838. The girth of all these trees was taken at six feet from the ground, and measured with all due care by the forester.

It may be here further noticed, that, towards the close of last century, a small piece of ground being trenched, adjoining to the castle, but remote from the garden, of itself spontaneously produced a thick crop of curly, or German green plants. Before this, the above ground had been uncultivated time out of mind, so that the seed of these plants must have remained a very long period dormant in the earth.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

This parish formerly constituted a part of that of Brechin; but, on the abolition of Episcopacy in 1636, when the Episcopal teinds fell into the power of the Crown, King Charles I. executed a grant of such teinds as arose from the lands of what was then to be

* Grows in the open air in front of the castle.

† This is in one of the gardens. It is considered to be the shittim tree of Scripture.

formed into a new parish, thereafter named Careston, in favour of Sir Alexander Carneggy, the proprietor of the above lands at that time.

Some years thereafter, when this same baronet had made a purchase of the farms of Craigend and Balnabreich, both in the parish of Brechin, and immediately eastward of that of Careston, the same King executed an additional grant of the teinds of these last farms in favour of Sir Alexander likewise;* but, although this new grant was corroborated by the sanction of the Scottish Parliament, it seems never to have been put in force,—probably in consequence of the troubles of the latter part of the King's reign, or, if these farms were then for a short season united to the parish of Careston, of which there is now no proof, yet they soon were again reunited to that of Brechin, on the restoration of Episcopacy; and thus Careston, after this revolution in ecclesiastical polity, continued as a parish, agreeable to the state of its original formation.

Changes of Proprietors who held Careston Estate.—Some centuries ago, this estate formed a small part of the very extensive domain of the Earl of Crawford, who, for a time, was one of the most potent amongst the Scottish nobility; as, besides many different properties in the south of Scotland, now belonging to the Duke of Buccleuch, and others, and the large districts of Lochaber and Badenoch, lately forming a part of the Dukedom of Gordon in the north, the Earl held not a few valuable estates both in Angus and Fifeshires. In the former of these he had the three not far distant residences of Edzel, Careston, and Finhaven; and, when in the south, he occupied Lindsay's Tower or Castle Crawford, in the large barony of that same name in Lanarkshire, from whence he had his title from King Robert III. in 1397, the same year in which he overthrew Lord Weller on London Bridge, in a tournament on St George's Day, in presence of King Richard II., whereon that prince created him Knight of the Garter. His own sovereign made him Earl of Crawford; and, in the investment of that earldom, he is designed *fratri nostro*; he being married to King Robert's sister, and daughter to King Robert II.;† and, in consequence

* The present incumbent, with the full concurrence of his heritor, Mr Skene, had a long process with the heritors of Brechin parish, for the purpose of rendering the above second grant of King Charles valid; had he succeeded in this, his stipend, then but small, amounting only to L.70 per annum, would have had an increase of about L.30. Ultimately the Court of Session decided against his claim.

† It is highly probably that James de Lindsay would have been made an Earl by King Robert II., with whom he was a great favourite, until, out of envy, he trai-

of his near alliance to the blood-royal, he was permitted to assume the royal arms of Scotland, as yet appears by their embossment above the mantel-piece of the chief room in the Castle of Careston. Things continued much in the same condition for two generations, till David, who was surnamed the Tiger Earl, or Earl Beardie, having dared to unite in a rebellious league with the Earls of Douglas and Ross against the interest of King James II.; his estate was forfeited. Still he ventured his fortune in battle with his sovereign's lieutenant, Earl Huntly, at Huntlawhill, in the neighbourhood of the town of Brechin. Here he was overcome, and was so far humbled as to be constrained to sue to his conqueror to intercede with the King to reverse his forfeiture, and repon him in his estates. This Huntly undertook, and successfully accomplished, on the hard conditions of his granting to Huntly precedence in dignity, the sheriffship of Inverness county, and the lands of Lochaber and Badenoch therein situated.* Very long afterwards, during the reign of King James VI., another Earl of Crawford fell into a situation similar to that of his predecessor, Earl Beardie; to extricate himself out of which, he had to yield a similar sacrifice to Mongo Carneggy, Esq. the father of the before-mentioned Sir Alexander Carneggy, and a most eminent lawyer of his day; by the happy exercise of whose legal acumen Earl Crawford escaped his impending danger; but at the great expense of parting with the lands of Careston, which thus passed into the family of the Carneggys of Balnamoon.

About the commencement of last century, Carneggy of Balnamoon and Careston sold this latter estate to Sir John Stewart, Bart. of Grandtully, who, after having been some years in

torously murdered John Lyon, Lord Glamis and Strathmore, at the moss of Balhall, after which wicked deed he durst never appear at Court during all Robert II.'s lifetime.

* Earl Crawford's loss of the battle of Brechin is commonly ascribed to the defection of Collace, laird of Balnamoon, who, along with his followers, gave their aid to Earl Huntly's men in the above contest.—Collace being provoked with Crawford for some time before, refusing to confer on him the lands of Deuchar, then in Crawford's power to bestow. This desertion of Collace, no doubt, had some effect in causing the above disaster to Crawford: and was accordingly punished by Crawford's afterwards burning all the houses on the estate of Balnamoon. But a far more fatal defection, at the same time, took place by the desertion of the Highland part of Crawford's host, consisting of men from the districts of Lochaber and Badenoch, who, being unwilling to fight against their countrymen amongst Lord Huntly's retainers, espoused their cause in that eventful battle. And doubtless the treachery of these Highlanders the more readily disposed Crawford afterwards to yield up both Lochaber and Badenoch unto Huntly, when he had so especial a favour to ask at his hand, as to become an intercessor for him with his sovereign, King James II.

possession, (during which he made considerable exertions in the way of ornamenting the manor-place), resold this estate unto Major Skene, a cadet of the family of Skene of Skene.

On the death of Major Skene, this estate next passed into the possession of the Laird of Skene of that Ilk, and the twelfth of the chieftains of the Skene family, who, from father to son, bore the pronomèn of George. Mr Skene acquired this valuable property in the following singular manner: Major Skene had two daughters, the elder of whom was married to the above laird of Skene, and her younger sister to Sir John Forbes of Foveran. Both ladies were married at the same time, when their father declared, that he would bequeath his estate to either of his daughters who should first have a son. In due time, Mrs Skene bore the heir to this property, which he thus inherited in right of his mother, as, in that of his father, he enjoyed, from a long paternal line of ancestors, the estate of Skene.*

Eminent Men.—The three last Messrs George Skenes were all eminent for their skill in music. They were also men of great mental endowments; in consequence of which, and the high status which they deservedly occupied in the counties of Aberdeen and Forfar, they took a leading part in all the public concerns of these shires. The son of that Mr Skene who was married to Major Skene's daughter was a great improver of his estate. In his time, a better mode of agriculture came into use, such as the cleaning of the ground before cropping, as well as the application of marl or lime; a new and better rotation of crops, and the raising of esculent plants, were all begun to be attended to as most requisite branches of husbandry.

His oldest son, the last George Skene, Esq. was not only eminent for his musical talents, but was also an able linguist, being versant in the ancient and several of the modern languages. He represented the large and important county of Aberdeen in three different Parliaments. Long afterwards, he sat in the House of Commons as Member for the Elgin

* It may be mentioned here, that, very early in the morning of the 5th day of April 1645, the famous Marquis of Montrose, along with his army, rested for a short time on the lawn of Careston, during their hasty retreat from Dundee before the Covenanters, and on their way to the Highlands. Afraid that they should be overtaken by far superior numbers, the Marquis continued his march incessantly in the gloom of night, as not deeming it safe to halt for the shortest time until he should pass the river Esk, which thus formed a seasonable protection from the pursuing enemy. The royalist army, after a short respite, resumed their march northwards, and, in passing Balnagoon, breakfasted there with its bountiful landlord; for which hospitality, that good man was fined by those then in power.

district of burghs. In politics he was a Whig of the old school, liberal in his views and conduct, and most steady to his party. He was indeed a generous and humane man, and took much pleasure in doing good to his fellow-creatures, by patronizing the deserving, befriending the friendless, and relieving the needy.

Three of the grandsons of the Rev. Mr John Gillies, the first Presbyterian minister here after the Revolution, and sons of Mr Robert Gillies, merchant in Brechin, all attained to eminence in different departments and professions. The oldest son, Dr John Gillies, wrote the History of Greece and other historical works of merit, for which he had the honour to be appointed Royal Historiographer. His younger brother, Colin Gillies, Esq. besides being a good agriculturist, became eminent as a general merchant and manufacturer. In advanced life, he became Provost of Brechin, and filled the chief magistrate's chair with becoming dignity.

The present Lord Gillies, the youngest, attained to much eminence as a lawyer, and is now a Judge of high note in the Court of Session.

Mr David Henry, of Ardrossan, in Ayrshire, is distinguished as a civil-engineer. He is a native of this parish; and attended Mr Brown, the late parochial schoolmaster here. In his profession as an engineer, Mr Henry was much employed both in England and the south of Scotland; and when the locks of the Aberdeenshire canal, on repeated trials, were found insufficient, he was brought from a distance to superintend their reconstruction.

Lastly, it may be observed, that the late very eminent botanist, Mr David Don of Forfar, though not a native, spent his younger years in this parish.

Land-owner.—The only land-owner in this parish is the Right Honourable James Earl of Fife, who succeeded his maternal uncle, the late Alexander Skene, Esq. in the properties of Skene and Careston. His Lordship's brother, General Alexander Duff, is apparent heir to these estates, as well as to the honours and estates of the Earldom of Fife.

Parochial Registers.—The register of births in this parish commences in the year 1714; and those of marriages and deaths in 1773. There is likewise a sessional register, commencing in 1733, in which all the transactions of the kirk-session are minutely

recorded, in a promiscuous manner, down to 1800, when the money matters connected with the poor's fund were recorded elsewhere, and in a more business-like manner.

Antiquities.—It is thought by some antiquarians that the Roman *Castra stativa Æsica*, or a camp on the Esk, and distant from that on the Tay thirteen Roman miles, equal to twenty-one English, was situated in this parish, near the influx of the Noran into the Esk, so as to command a ford over this latter stream; and perhaps the farm of Gateside took its name from the Roman station *Æsica*, as forming a gate or port to and from the river; and there is yet in the vicinity, a house named Ward-end, which might possibly refer to some lesser fort connected with the former one.

As already stated, there is, on the field adjoining the farmhouse of Nether-Careston, a barrow, which is believed to have been thrown up to perpetuate the slaughter and burial of the Danish chief Carald, from whom this estate and the parish long afterwards took its name.

Under this head, may be mentioned the Castle of Careston, the main part of which building was erected, about 440 years ago, by the Earl of Crawford.* The same nobleman, according to tradition, was also the builder of Finhaven, his chief residence, when in this part of the country. The west wing, which is evidently the oldest, is said to have been built by one of the Carnegie family, and most likely when they came into the possession of the property of Careston. The east wing is thought to have been built by Major Skene, soon after he acquired the estate. Both wings project to a good distance from the main body of the house, but are connected together by a long lobby in front. Above the mantel-piece of what is now termed the old drawing-room the royal arms of Scotland† are depicted. And below the royal arms is the following curious ancient inscription, in old Roman letters:

* If the historian Buchanan could here be relied on, he who built Careston Castle must have been the first Earl of Crawford, as he states, that this dignity was conferred on the family of Lindsay in 1396; and he who obtained it, Sir David Lindsay of Glenesk, was killed at Verneil in France, and buried in Dundee in 1425. But in a manuscript (written by Sir George M'Kenzie, Lord Advocate to Charles II.) mention is made of a Dominus Lindsay de Crawford in 1357, and of a David Lindsay Dominus de Crawford, miles, who is witness to a charter granted by William Earl of Ross to Hugh Ross his brother.

† The royal arms seem to have been granted only to the first Earl of Crawford, or Sir David Lindsay of Glenesk, as the Crawford family now have other arms.

This Honoris-Signe.
 And Figvirt. Trophe. Bor-
 Svld Puse Aspyring Spre
 tis. And Martial Mynd"
 To Trust. Yair. Fortvne.
 Fwrth. &. In Hir. Scorne.
 Believe. In Faithe.
 Ovr. Fait. God. Hes. Assign'd.

On each side of the arms and the above inscription, are two naked men, nearly full size, each riding on a lamia, and each holding a double military trophy, supported on a lance, with a flag at top, and on either flag are the letters S, p, q, n. And above the heads of these riding figures, are those of a naked man and woman, holding in the right hand of the one, and the left of the other, two cornucopiæ, festooned, and united in the middle by a Pan's head.

In the present dining-room, above the mantel-piece, are the Earl of Airly's arms, with the motto, *A Faine*. On each side of the arms, are two antiquated urns on pedestals, each supported by a naked man, holding the urn in his arms. On the top of each urn, are two entire twined serpents, resting on their tails. Below the pedestals, at some distance, and quite detached, are two very full human faces. Much lower down, on each flank of the projecting fire-place, are two satyrs, a male on the right side, and a female on the left, each in a state of complete nudity.

Above what was at one time the grand entrance to the castle, on the north side of the adjoining low buildings, are the arms of Carneggy of Balnamoon.

On the front of the castle, and the middle of the main building, are the Gairntully arms. The date above these arms is 1714. Inside the west wing, on the second story, and facing that which appears, at the time when the wing was built, to have been the principal stair, is a group of arms in oval shields, nine in number, and all arranged in the like oval form. In the centre are the Carneggy arms, as already described. On the dexter side, *1st*, The arms of Hallyburton of Pitcur. *2d*, The arms of the Earl of Wemyss. *3d*, The arms of Blair of Balthyock. *4th*, The arms of Carneggy. And on the sinister side, *1st*, Argent three laurel leaves stipped vert—perhaps for Foulis. *2d*, The arms of the Earl of Gowrie. *3d*, The arms of the Earl of Haddington, *4th*, The arms of the Earl of Airly.

In the eastern bed-room, are the Earl of Gowrie's arms, with the motto above, "Deeds show." Exclusive of the arms, there are

also here two men in robes, on each side of the arms, and on their flanks two others in armour, in the Highland costume, with helmets and coats of mail, with their hands folded.

In the western bed-room, are the arms of the Earl of Haddington, with the motto above, "Præsto et Presto."

In the bed-room, west wing, are the arms of Balthayock, with the motto above, "Virtute Tutus."

In another bed-room is the figure of a piper playing on his instrument, the Highland bagpipe, instead of a coat of arms, above the mantel-piece. And in the same situation, in another bed-room, there are the figures of two peasants dressed in short tunics, each with a flail in his hand, two sheaves of corn laid across one another, and rakes and corn forks beside the men.

Although the Castle of Careston cannot boast much of ornament in its construction, it is, on the whole, a stately edifice, and carries in its appearance an aspect of grandeur, well suited to a baronial residence.

III.—POPULATION.

The earliest accurate statement of the population of this parish is the return made to Dr Webster, about the middle of last century, when the number of its inhabitants was 269.

By Sir John Sinclair's Account,	260
Government census for 1801,	229
1811,	271
1821,	240
1831,	253
1839,	216
1841,	221

There is no resident heritor, nor other person of independent fortune in the parish.

The Right Honourable James Earl of Fife is the sole heritor of the parish.

The number of males employed in agriculture,	21
handicraftsmen,	9
merchant,	1
sawyers,	4
labourers,	6

IV.—INDUSTRY.

The general system of agriculture now adopted is a rotation from corn to grass of a five years' shift, two of these years being in grass, with the exception of one farm, under an old lease; though in some cases, a seven years' shift is still in practice. Formerly, a considerable part of the best land in the parish, and situated around the mansion-house, continued in a permanent state of pasturage, the grass being let by public roup to farmers and

cattle-dealers, at an average rent of between L.2 and L.3 per statute acre.

There are two thrashing-machines in the parish: one of these, on the farm of Nether Careston, was erected forty years ago, and is driven by water; the other, on the farm of Hillhead, is quite new, and is moved by horses.

Extent of the parish in imperial acres:—

Arable land,	1422 acres.
Pasture do.	269
Wood do.	280
Water,	30

State of Crops.—The cultivation of wheat is now greatly lessened.

Wheat, now about	70 quarters annually
Barley,	240 do. do.
Oats,	1000 do. do.
Potatoes,	500 bolls, of 5 cwt. each boll.
Turnips, on an average of,	80 acres statute annually.
Hay, at 200 stones per acre, may be,	12,000 stones in toto.
Of which may be spared about,	1000 do.
The remainder being consumed,	11,000 do.

About 40 acres imperial, now nearly unproductive, might be reclaimed by judicious draining.

On the above 280 acres of woodland, which, about eight years ago, were estimated at about L.6000, a great deal of wood has since been blown down by repeated storms, and not a little cut down by thinning.

The woods generally consist of pine and larch, several of which last description have attained to a great size; the soil seeming to be well adapted to them.

Prices of different descriptions of Timber.—Pine per cubic foot, 10d.; larch, do. 1s.; spruce, do. 10d.; ash, do. 2s.; birch and alder, about 10d. per foot; beech, 1s. do.; plane, 1s. 4d. do.; elm, 3s. 6d. do. The woods are kept under good management, but would probably suffer nothing by being still farther thinned.

Rent.—The average of rent for arable land may run from L.1, 5s. to L.1, 15s. per imperial acre. Some of the best land may be rated at fully L.3, 10s. per acre, while some of the inferior ground will bring more than 10s. the imperial acre.

In the course of this season, several pretty large farms belonging to this estate, have been relet at nearly triple their former rent; thus, one of them which formerly rented at L.80 Sterling, and 16 bolls of oatmeal, is now let at L.300 Sterling per annum.

The average rent for grazing may be considered at the rate of

from L.2, 10s. to L.3 per imperial acre; although some of the best pasture land may be rated at L.3 per acre, statute measure.

Live-Stock.—Hardly any sheep are kept in the parish. A good set of horses is maintained for agriculture. They are partly reared in the parish, and partly brought from the west; and the Angus breed of cattle prevails.

There are here about 35 horses, young and old, value	L.500	0	0
225 black cattle, at	1230	0	0
100 swine, great and small, at	60	0	0.
25 calves, fed for the butcher,	31	5	0
Calves reared for the farmer 45 to perhaps 50,	51	5	0
Total number of calves, 70 at	L.82	10	0

Small Stock.—About two dozen of hens may be sold in the season, at an average of 1s. 3d. each, in all L.1, 10s.; and about eight dozen of chickens, at 6d. each, L.2, 8s.; total value of the poultry, L.3, 18s.

About 3000 imperial lbs. of butter may be made in the parish, which at 10d. per lb. will yield L. 125. About 350 stones of cheese may be sold at a low price, or from 4s. to 6s. per stone, (say 5s., average) L.87, 10s. There may likewise be sold about 200 dozen of eggs, which, on an average of 9d. per dozen, will give L.7, 10s.

Improvements, &c.—A considerable part of the haugh land was recovered about twenty years ago. The general duration of leases is about nineteen years. But some inclosures of grass-land have been lately let for cropping for a course of five years, and, at the end of this short lease must be sown out. The farm-buildings are, in general, in an ordinary state of repair, and the inclosures are some good, others indifferent. Part of the land is inclosed with stone dikes, part with thorn hedges, and another portion continues still open.

Fishings.—Some salmon are fished by the rod in the Esk, and trout taken in the same manner in the Noran; but there is no regular fishing for salmon with the net.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns, &c.—Our nearest market-town is Brechin, distant four miles.

One daily coach for the use of passengers between Brechin and Forfar, passes here daily. There is likewise a statute-labour road between Brechin and Kirriemuir that passes through the upper part of this parish, kept in tolerable order. There is a bridge consisting of one flat low arch over the Noran.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is conveniently situated for the population; its site being central, and not more than a mile distant from the remotest dwelling-house.

The church was built on the erection of the parish in 1636; and had a tolerable repair in 1808.

At the erection of the parish, the patron mortified a sum of money, the interest of which was especially for the behoof of the clergyman serving the cure in all time coming. This sum was 4000 merks Scots, or L.222, 4s. 5d. Sterling, and the interest arising therefrom is L.11, 2s. 2½d., which is now considered as forming a portion of the present money stipend. Likewise, during the present minister's incumbency, L.250 were bequeathed by the late David Skene, Esq., merchant in London, and brother to the late George Skene, Esq. in aid of the funds of the kirk-session.

The church of Careston would afford ample accommodation for all the parishioners, were they considerably more numerous than they are, as the sittings have been constructed for about 200 hearers, and all the seats are free. The kirk-session formerly was considered as having a right to two seats in the church, and, as proprietors, drew rent for them; but no rent has been exacted since the incumbency of the present minister.

The manse was built in the year 1802, just two years after the present minister entered on this charge. It received a small addition about three years ago. The offices were well repaired in the autumn 1842. The glebe consists of about ten statute acres, and may be considered worth about L.1, 5s. per acre.

The stipend is one of those termed the small livings, being L.150 Sterling. It is, however, a little more, as part of it is paid in grain. It consists as follows: 37 bolls, 3 firlots, and 2 pecks of oatmeal; 23 bolls and 2½ pecks of bear or big, or equal to 61 bolls and 3 lippies of grain. Money stipend from the Careston estate, L.24, 14s. 3d.; from the Exchequer, L.92, 19s. 2d.; total of money stipend, L.107, 13s. 5d.

Besides the above stipend, there are also paid to the incumbent 4 bushels and 2 pecks of barley from the lands of Balhall, an estate in the adjoining parish of Menmore, as an equivalent for a servitude over a piece of moor ground. This, like the victual stipend, being converted at the fair prices of the county, varies considerably.

Our parishioners are all members of the Established Church,

with the exception of two or three Dissenters and one Roman Catholic. There is, in general, a good attendance on Divine service. The average number of communicants falls little short of 100.

Education.—The school is well taught. The teacher has the legal accommodations, and the maximum salary, viz. L.34, 4s. 4d. per annum; school fees, L.18 annually on an average; emolument of the session clerkship on an average, L.2; total, L.54, 4s. 4d. There is also a private school taught by a female, in which instruction is afforded in reading English, needle-work, and knitting.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The whole annual amount of contributions for the relief of the poor, is about L. 21; of which, about L. 8, 10s. is collected in the church; the remainder consists of the savings of former times, together with the interest of a sum of money bequeathed to the session, as before-mentioned, by the late David Skene, Esq. In all, the sessional fund amounts to L. 330 Sterling.

The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is from six to seven; and the sums allotted vary from L. 2, 2s. to L. 4, 10s.; besides which, small sums are frequently given, when requisite. Independent of the above assistance afforded to ordinary parochial paupers, and of L. 3 annually to a blind man who has a legal claim on this parish, of late the session has to pay L. 6 annually as board for a foundling. There is also commonly raised yearly, in the way of extraordinary contribution, from L.3 to L.4 in aid of some charitable or religious institution.

Drawn up November 1839.

Revised October 1842.