

PARISH OF LIFF AND BENVIE.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNDEE, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS.

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I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—Liff, according to the author of *Caledonia*, is derived from the North British or Pictish word, *Liff*, a *flood or inundation*.* On what account, this name should have been applied to a tract of country, having in it nothing that deserves the name of a river; and consisting chiefly of sloping-elevated ground, as secure as possible from all risk of inundation, it is not easy to conjecture.

Benvie, some suppose to be of Celtic derivation—from “*Beinn Buidhe*”—signifying “*the Yellow Hill or Mount*.”

The original parish of Liff comprehended the space on which the greater part of the village of Lochee now stands. That village, along with a part of the old parish of Logie, was erected into a *quoad sacra* parish about ten years ago, called the parish of Lochee.

The parish of Logie, including, together with the lands so called, those of Balgay and Blackness, was annexed to Liff, *quoad temporalia*, before the middle of the seventeenth century. A considerable portion of the suburbs of Dundee to the west and north is built on these lands; and the inhabitants of the parish of Logie having, from time immemorial, been connected with Dundee, *quoad spiritualia*, it will not be necessary to take any further notice of this part of the united parish.† The parish of Invergowrie had been joined to Liff as early as the above-mentioned period. In November 1758, the union of the parishes of Liff and Benvie took place, and these three, united *quoad omnia*, constitute what

* “The Liffar and Liver, as well as the Liffy, which bisects Dublin, derive their names from the British *Lif* or *Lliv*—signifying a flood or inundation. The rivers named *Ylif*, which are now *Ila* and *Ileu* in Britain, have their names from the same source.—Chalmer’s *Caledonia*, page 25.

† While the tithes of Logie have been held to belong to the parish of Liff for nearly two centuries, an annual payment of twelve bolls of barley has been made, from a very remote period, to the minister of Dundee, expressly for “the administration of the sacraments” and marriage to the heritors and inhabitants of the lands of Balgay and Logie, and of the lands of Blackness.”

is properly termed the parish of Liff and Benvie, to which, with that part of the *quoad sacra* parish of Lochee, which formerly belonged to Liff, the following observations have reference.*

Extent and Boundaries.—This parish is situated at the south-west corner of the county of Forfar, being bounded on the west, by the parishes of Fowlis Easter and Longforan (both in Perthshire); on the south, by the river Tay; on the east, by Dundee and the united parish of Mains and Strathmartine; and on the north, by the Dighty, a small river which divides it from the parishes of Auchterhouse and Lundie. The extent is about 6 miles from east to west, and 4 miles from north to south. The land rises with a gentle slope from the Tay for nearly three miles, till it reaches an elevation of about 400 feet. The remaining part has a northern aspect. The turnpike road from Perth to Dundee passes near the south boundary for the space of one mile, and the road from Dundee to Meigle and Cupar-Angus traverses the parish for three miles, near its eastern limit.

Hydrography.—There is no river in the parish. Several small streams flowing from the west, and joined, within less than a mile of the Tay, by the rivulet running through Lochee from the east, are then called the Burn of Invergowrie, which, after passing Bullion bleachfield, and a little further down furnishing a sufficient water-power for the flour-mills of Invergowrie, falls into the bay of that name.†

Near the village of Benvie is a spring strongly impregnated with iron. It was formerly in great repute as a tonic, and was applied externally in cutaneous disorders, but is now entirely neglected.

Geology.—The geology of this parish has of late attracted considerable attention, in consequence of a variety of fossil organic remains very recently discovered in the den of Balruddery, by Mr Webster, the proprietor; having, with one exception, been declared by Professor Agassiz to belong to entirely new species; and also, in consequence of very considerable difference of opinion hav-

* The reasons or motives which led to the separation of the parish of Logie from Dundee, with which it was at one time connected, it is impossible now to ascertain; but, in regard to Invergowrie and Benvis, two things are undoubted, 1st, that both these parishes were very limited in extent and population; and, 2dly, that the tithes, in both cases, were inadequate to the suitable maintenance of a clergyman.

† It is very currently but erroneously assumed, that the Burn of Invergowrie is the boundary between the counties of Perth and Forfar. The farm of Bullion and lands of Dargo lie on the west of said burn, and are confessedly in the county of Forfar and parish of Liff. The marches between the counties and parishes are, at this particular point, irregular and ill defined.

ing arisen, amongst geologists, as to the precise formation to which the strata they occur in are to be held as belonging. It may, therefore, be desirable to state the conclusions to which a careful examination of this very interesting locality and the district around would seem to give rise. But, as in examining a particular locality, it is necessary, in order to form any conclusion as to its geological character, not only carefully to examine that locality, but also as much of the district around as shall be necessary to determine its relative position, with regard to the strata connected with it;—so, therefore, it will here be necessary, in order to point out the particular character of the strata in this parish, to make some remarks on the nature of the strata of the district around, and to state the conclusions drawn from a careful examination of them.

The stratified rocks of this parish are of two kinds,—red sandstone and gray sandstone. There are but few localities at which their precise point of contact can be traced with much distinctness, and there has, therefore, been some doubt as to which of them is superimposed on the other. Dr Fleming states, that the gray sandstones overlie the red, (Cheek's Edin. Journal, Feb. 1831), whilst Mr Lyell (in his Elements of Geology), states, that the red sandstones overlie the gray. But these localities, combined with an attentive observation of the general position of the strata, afford conclusive grounds on which to determine this fact, from which it distinctly appears that the red sandstone overlies the gray. The general line of direction, or crop of the strata, where they appear to be free from the immediate influence of trap rocks, is from south-east to north-west, the dip, therefore, being towards the south-west. The strata along the high ground, which forms the northern boundary of the Carse of Gowrie, is almost entirely occupied by gray sandstone, whilst the red sandstone is generally found occupying the low ground, and apparently contained within the limits of the gray sandstone, where the strata, from a change of dip, assume a somewhat basined form, which occurs at different places in the neighbourhood, and also, in some degree, in the Carse of Gowrie. These sandstones vary considerably in character and internal structure at different points. The general character of the gray sandstone is,—finely grained; compact, of a dullish-gray colour, varying in character from friable schist, to compact sandstone in deep beds, well suited for building. It is, in some instances, highly micaceous, at other times, ap-

proaching in character to a conglomerate. Towards the upper part of the series, it chiefly assumes a schistose character, sometimes of considerable tenuity, and, at other times, forming excellent pavement, precisely similar in character and appearance to the well known Arbroath pavement of Carmylie Quarry, and generally intermingled with beds of slate clay, locally termed *calm*. This schistus deposit is of considerable depth. Its position and character are well seen in the den of Balruddery, in the den of Fowlis, and near Liff. The gray sandstone, forming the lower part of the series, is evidently of enormous depth, and is quarried to a great extent at Millfield, on the banks of the Tay, and at Lochee, at which places blocks of immense size can be cut. The red sandstone varies from a brownish-red-coloured stone, somewhat similar in texture to the gray sandstone, to that of a deep brick-red-coloured stone of softer texture, having, in many instances, yellow spots or nuclei interspersed through it, similar to those which occur in the red sandstone of Clashbinnie Quarry, near the west or upper end of the Carse. One of the most favourable localities for observing the point of contact, and, therefore, order of superposition of the sandstones, is in the den of Balruddery, where the red sandstone is found superimposed on the gray sandstone schists, and contains yellow spots precisely similar to those of Clashbinnie. The transition from gray to red is more or less gradual in different localities. This transition may be distinctly traced near Liff Church. The organic remains of the red sandstone have been found in the deep brick-red coloured sandstone of Clashbinnie, whilst those of the gray sandstone deposit have been found in the slate-clay of the den of Balruddery.

In examining these strata, it is necessary to attend to the effect produced on them by the trap rocks, which, in some instances, alter both their position and appearance very considerably. These trap rocks consist chiefly of greenstone, as at Castle Huntly, in the Carse of Gowrie, and in the Sidlaw range of hills, but, in many instances, also of porphyritic rocks of reddish colour, and also of porphyritic greenstone. Thus, in the den of Balruddery, which is a very important point for observation, considerable difficulty occurs in tracing the continuous character and position of the gray sandstone schists, in consequence of the occurrence of igneous rocks, of a porphyritic nature, in several places in the form of dikes, which break through the strata, and give them a red colour and altered appearance when near the point of contact.

In order to observe the precise character and position of these strata, it is necessary, as they dip towards the south, to trace their connection with rocks of an older date, to the northward.

The Carse of Gowrie is bounded on the north by the Sidlaw range of hills, chiefly composed of trap rocks, which separates it from Strathmore. On crossing these hills, the gray sandstone is again found reclining on the north side of them, dipping to the north. And in traversing Strathmore, we find the central part of it is chiefly occupied by red sandstone as at Cupar Angus, these sandstones being in every way precisely similar to those of the Carse of Gowrie. But on approaching the northern side of Strathmore, towards Blair-Gowrie, the red sandstone begins to assume the character of a conglomerate, which, on tracing it along the beds of the streams which intersect the high ground to the north of Strathmore, becomes a coarse red conglomerate, having all the characteristics of the old red sandstone conglomerate. On tracing it still farther north, as in the bed of the Ericht to the north of Craighall House, it passes into a coarse gray conglomerate, mixed at some points with finer grained portions in a somewhat stratified position, which is at once recognized as belonging to the greywacke series. The colour of this conglomerate is remarkably similar to that of the gray sandstones of Strathmore and the Carse of Gowrie, and the finer portions of it are remarkably similar to many of the gray sandstone strata.

Thus, then, we find these sandstone strata occupying the valleys of Strathmore and the Carse of Gowrie, and that as we approach the borders of the Grampian range, they assume the character of conglomerates. There seems no reason for considering these conglomerates as belonging to another deposit, but simply as an instance of a well known fact in geology, that newer stratified rocks on approaching primary rocks very frequently assume a different character, being usually much less highly comminuted in their constituent parts. From this it would undoubtedly seem, that these red and gray conglomerates are the equivalents of the red and gray sandstones, which merely assume a finer texture, when found in a more distinctly stratified form, occupying the low country, and at a greater distance from the older rocks.

It might seem out of place to enter here into a detailed argumentative statement regarding the various views adopted by geologists, as to the precise character of the strata in this district, and therefore in some degree of the various theories of the red sand-

stone generally. But as the recent discovery of fossil organic remains of a new species in them has created considerable interest, it may perhaps be desirable to state shortly the results of a particular examination of them. The opinion expressed by Dr Thomson in his *Chemistry and Mineralogy*, and by Mr Witham in his paper on the Red Sandstone of Berwickshire, published in the *Transactions of the Natural History Society of Newcastle*, Vol. i. p. 173, as to the existence of a new red sandstone in Forfarshire, now distinctly appears to be altogether erroneous; the localities to which Mr Witham refers are not pointed out with such distinctness as to enable the observer to examine into the fact; but undoubtedly more recent examinations of this county clearly tend to prove that new red sandstone does not occur in any part of it. And, on the other hand, it has since been clearly shown that the sandstones alluded to by Dr Thomson underlie the coal formation of Fife, thus entirely excluding the supposition that they can belong to the new red sandstone series. It may therefore be held, that the red sandstones of this district belong to the old red sandstone formation, and the point now to be observed is their precise position with regard to the strata of the surrounding district. The gray sandstone has been stated by Dr Fleming (as was previously mentioned) to overlie the red, whilst Mr Lyell states that they occur in the reverse order, and the result of an examination of them, as will have been observed, coincides with the latter view. In a recent treatise on the old red sandstone, Mr Millar makes a very ingenious subdivision of the old red sandstone of the north of Scotland, based on views drawn from a consideration of the fossil organic remains which occur in the various strata, and by comparison of them with the better known old red sandstones of England, and undoubtedly fossil organic remains of a somewhat similar character, have been found to be common to each of them; but there scarcely seems sufficient information as yet to have been obtained regarding the old red sandstones of Scotland, to lead to any conclusive arrangement of them, based on an examination of their fossil organic remains alone. It is indeed but very recently that they were known to contain the organic remains of any animals whatever, and but a very indistinct conclusion, indeed, can be drawn from the fact of particular species having been found to occur in certain strata, while they have not been found to do so in others which may be more or less similar to them in mineral character or appearance, for indeed very much depends on the nature of the

strata in which they occur. Thus the organic remains of Balruddery are found in the slate clay of the gray sandstone, whilst those of the red sandstone of Clashbinnie quarry are imbedded in siliceous matter. Mr Miller subdivides the old red sandstone deposits into three distinct classes, and apparently from the circumstance of the red and gray sandstones of this district having an organism of one particular species, viz. the *Cephalaspis* common to both, he classes them as belonging to the second or intermediate division; but it is scarcely enough to say, that because particular fossil organic remains have not been found to occur throughout the various beds of a great deposit, such as the old red sandstone series, therefore they do not belong simply to one general deposit, or that a special and invariable subdivision may be inferred from it, or that any distinct ground of comparison of them will thereby arise with similar deposits of a different locality or country. This is a well known circumstance with regard to other deposits, though perhaps on a smaller scale, as in the mountain limestone, or in the coal formation generally, where particular fossils are found to occur in some deposits, whilst they are totally wanting, or of partial occurrence merely in others, and reappear again without any assignable order whatever, so that whilst sufficient grounds may be afforded for the comparison of the formation or deposit generally, with those of a similar character which occur at different and distant localities, still they can by no means be held sufficient for assigning any rule or order of occurrence. The mineral character and contents of the deposit also give rise to very considerable and important effects, as from the effect pointed out by Lyell, by the presence of oxide of iron in greater or less quantity, which must in many instances account for the absence of organic remains, which might otherwise have occurred in them. The beautiful state of preservation in which the organic remains of Balruddery, although mostly of a very delicate texture, occur, in consequence of the total absence, or nearly so, of iron in the slate clay in which they are found, is a remarkable instance. And it is an undoubted fact that there is a great irregularity in the character and occurrence of the old red sandstones of Scotland and elsewhere.

There appear, indeed, to be many satisfactory grounds for forming a conclusion regarding the strata of this district, both from their relative position and internal structure, although, of course, care must always be taken not to place too much reliance on this latter ground, which is too often the cause of error in the geological ob-

server. Although the examination of this district be attended with considerable difficulty, still it affords a rather favourable opportunity of ascertaining the geological character of the strata which occur in it. These, as has been mentioned, are limited to the red and gray sandstones, and, therefore, some of the strata alluded to by Mr Miller must of course be wanting; still the particular position affords a great advantage in investigating their nature, and their particular character and position appears to be this,—that the gray and red conglomerates which occur on the high ground to the north of Strathmore are the equivalents of the gray and red sandstones of Strathmore and the Carse of Gowrie, and that, therefore, the former belongs to the graywacke, and the latter to the old red sandstone series, which is simply an instance of by no means unusual occurrence, of the old red sandstone passing into the graywacke beneath, as in Pembrokeshire and elsewhere. The position of the strata of this district coincides almost precisely with the section given by Mr Lyell, in his *Elements of Geology*, page 99, with the exception of the gray sandstone there laid down as occurring below the red, being merely looked upon as belonging to the graywacke series. The position of these strata in the ascending order is therefore this, 1st, the graywacke, 2d, the old red sandstone, 3d, the yellow sandstone of Fifeshire, 4th, the coal formation of Fifeshire.

As was previously mentioned, the fossil organic remains discovered by Mr Webster in the den of Balruddery have been examined by Professor Agassiz, and it is therefore hoped that correct drawings and descriptions of them will be published by that eminent naturalist. A few of the principal specimens may here be mentioned, as consisting of various specimens of the *Cephalaspis*, portions of a crustaceous animal in a beautiful state of preservation, stated by Professor Agassiz to have belonged to a gigantic lobster; a variety of *ichthyodorulites*, fins, and spines, and various beautifully marked delicate portions of crustaceous animals; but of these fossils, enough is not yet known to give any correct detailed description of them.*

Boulders.—On the road to Liff, about a mile from the Tay, stands a very large boulder of gneiss, perfectly isolated, vulgarly termed the "Paddock Stane;" and two more of the same sort

* The above interesting account of the fossil remains lately discovered in the den of Balruddery, was obligingly furnished by Charles Forsyth, Esq. Advocate.

are to be seen at the extremity of Invergowrie Bay, within a short distance of the land.

Botany.—The romantic dells and glens which abound in this neighbourhood are, in the season, richly clothed with the most beautiful plants and flowers, yet there is nothing very peculiar or rare in the botany of this parish.

It may be mentioned, that in the Den of Balruddery, referred to above, the *Viola hirta* and the *Astragalus glycyphyllus* are to be found, both stated by Hooker to be “rare in Scotland,” although a more extensive observation has proved that they scarcely merit this honour. A more curious and a much rarer plant is also to be found in this locality, viz. the *Tragopogon*. This plant is interesting from its extreme sensibility to the “skiey influences.” If the weather is fair, its flowers open at early dawn, and shut again about ten o’clock in the morning; so that, if the observer wishes to see its large yellow corolla expanded, he must bestir himself, and watch his opportunity. Its roots seem at one time to have been used as an esculent. Old Gerarde describes them as in “delicate taste farre surpassing either parsenep or carrot.” The *Sambucus ebulus* grows in the old burying-ground at Invergowrie. From the fact of its being found occasionally in such situations, it is probable that the ecclesiastics in other days grew it for its medicinal properties. The *Veronica anagallis*, which is far from common in this part of the country, will be found in the burn of Benvie.

Plantations.—This parish and the surrounding district are well-wooded. On the lands of Camperdown are very extensive plantations, all of which, with the exception of young larch trees, are very thriving, and contribute greatly to the beauty of the landscape, as well as the improvement of the climate and temperature.

The estate of Gray abounds with fine timber of various kinds, and of considerable age,—elm, plane, ash, beech, oak, and fir trees of all sorts, &c.

The subjoined table of measurements, very accurately made, may interest a certain class of readers :

	Girth.	
	Feet.	In.
Cedar near Gray House, at 1 foot from the ground, 22d September 1884, the above tree was measured, and found to contain 310 solid feet. It is 59 feet in height.	18	1
Ash in the orchard of Benvie, at 1 foot from the ground,	20	6
Do. do. at 2 feet from the ground,	17	10
Do. do. at 4 do.	14	8
Larch in den opposite the church of Liff, 100 feet in height, and perfectly straight, 3 feet from the ground,	8	8

	Girth.	
	Fect.	In.
Larch in West Den of Gray, at 3 feet from the ground,	9	9
Oak near Gray House, at 3 do.	18	10
Measured 15th June 1833, and found to contain 428 feet 1 inch solid. It covers 650 square yards of ground.		
Horse-chestnut, 3 feet from the ground,	10	8
Silver fir, 3 do.	11	7
Scarlet oak, 3 do.	6	3
Tulip tree, 3 do.	5	3
Yew, 3 do.	8	7
Walnut, 3 do.	8	0
Scotch fir, 3 do.	9	9
Pinaster, 3 do.	8	6
Elm,	11	2
Beech,	11	0

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—Following the order of the valuation roll, the first is—

The Right Honourable Lord Gray, patron of the church,	L.1593	14	11	Scots.
The Right Honourable the Earl of Camperdown,	1150	0	0	
Alexander Clayhills, Esq. of Invergowrie,	950	0	0	
Robert Webster, Esq. of Balruddery,	426	5	1	
Frederick Lewis Swaingeour Wedderburn, Esq. of Wedderburn and Birkhill,	383	6	8	
William Henderson, Esq. of Mylnfield,	50	0	0	
Mr Thomas Watson, Liff,	40	0	6	
Mr James Waddel,	15	0	0	
Total,				L.4608 7 8

Mansion Houses.—The House of Gray is an imposing and venerable structure. It is of the manor style of architecture, with turrets; was built in 1716; is quite entire, and in good repair. It stands in a fine park of 200 acres, interspersed with old trees.

Camperdown House is an elegant modern building, of the Grecian style. The entrance on the east is adorned with a handsome portico, supported by eight massive columns of the Ionic order. It is built of white Killala sandstone. The interior arrangements correspond with the external appearance, combining in a high degree elegance with comfort. The saloon is very magnificent, lighted by a cupola.

But the most appropriate and interesting embellishment of this noble mansion is a splendid painting, by Sir John Copley, of the scene on board the *Venerable*, immediately after the battle of Camperdown. De Winter is in the act of delivering up his sword to the British Admiral. The air of dejection which marks his handsome countenance tells how deeply he felt his unfortunate position; while the athletic form, and noble attitude and bearing of Admiral Duncan exhibit the very personification of a British hero. The other figures which comprise the group, it is said, are

real likenesses of the gallant men who bore a conspicuous part in the achievement of that ever memorable day.*

A large addition has lately been made to the mansion-house of Invergowrie, the seat of Alexander Clayhills, Esq. The plan was furnished by Mr Burn, architect, and reflects great credit on his taste. The house is delightfully situated on a sloping bank adjoining the Tay, and commands a beautiful view of the bay of Invergowrie, of the course of the river for several miles, and of the rich and fertile district of the Carse of Gowrie, lying immediately to the westward.

Balruddery House (Robert Webster, Esq.) is a handsome modern building. It stands on an eminence sufficiently elevated to afford a rich, extensive, and varied prospect. The finely wooded dells by which it is surrounded are well known for their beautiful and romantic scenery.

Mills.—Within the last sixteen or seventeen years, three spinning-mills have been erected in the village of Lochee, and one at Denmiln, in this parish. Whatever advantages may accrue from these establishments, they have a very unfortunate effect on the morals and pauperism of the community. At Bullion, near Invergowrie, an extensive work for bleaching and dyeing yarn and cloth has been lately established. The necessary erections have been made with great care, and at very considerable expense. There is on the premises a water-wheel of 14 horses' power, and a steam-engine of 6. A gasometer has been fitted up solely for the use of the work.

Parochial Registers.—1. A register of births, commencing 1633, very much obliterated. 2. Register of baptisms, 1658, tolerably legible. 3. Register of births, 1696, much faded. 4. Register of marriages, 1660, almost illegible. 5. Record of kirk-session, 1704, not entire. 6. Register of baptisms and marriages, 1774, not entire. 7. Register of discipline, 1726, and book of collections and disbursements, 1746, not entire. 8. Register of births, 1774, and also collections and disbursements, quite distinct. 9. Register of discipline, 1786, well kept. 10. Register of births,

* Adjoining the House of Camperdown there is a memorial of the battle possessing some interest, viz. the bulkhead of De Winter's ship, "Vryheid." It is a large mass of wood representing a lion. The monarch of the beasts had been rather roughly handled in effigy,—half his face is shot away, and from the many hard hits he had received, it is easy to imagine how thoroughly the ship must have been "riddled," when "the masts having fallen over the side, she dropped out of the line, an ungodly-vernable hulk, and struck her colours."—*James's Naval History.*

at present going on, beginning 1834. 11. Register of marriages, at present being filled up, 1834.

Eminent Characters.—In the number of distinguished characters connected with the parish, by residence, though not by birth, may be mentioned the late Admiral Viscount Duncan. During the intervals of professional service, he resided at the family seat in this parish; and in the intercourse of private life, the benevolence of his disposition and urbanity of his manners conciliated the respect and affection of all classes. He was a staunch friend of the Established Church, and occasionally officiated as an elder.

The late Professor John Playfair of Edinburgh was born at Benvie on the 10th of March 1748. He succeeded his father as minister of the united parish in August 1773; but the bent of his mind being decidedly towards scientific pursuits, he resigned the pastoral office in 1782, and became tutor to Mr Fergusson of Raith and his brother Sir Ronald Fergusson. He taught for several years the mathematical class in the University of Edinburgh, and was afterwards appointed Professor of Natural Philosophy, both which situations he filled with distinguished honour and ability. The works he has left behind him establish his claim to the character of an eminent scholar, and elegant writer. This parish was also the birth-place of his brother, William, author of many excellent works on history and antiquities.

Antiquities.—Druidical Temple.—The Druidical temple mentioned in the former account of the parish, consisting of nine large rude stones, is still to be seen. The enclosed space is circular, about ten feet in diameter.

Roman Camp.—Of the Roman camp, described by Maitland in his History of Scotland, and called "Catter Milly," or *quatuor millia*, (alluding, it is supposed, to the number of troops assembled in the fortress, or the distance of the encampment from some other station), no trace remains.

Pitalpie.—Pitalpie, or Pit of Alpin, lies on the confines of the parish to the east. A few cottages on the farm of Dryburgh bore the name of Pitalpie. They are now removed, and the space whereon they stood is within the plantations of the Earl of Camperdown. The name is considered as referring to "the scene of an engagement, in the ninth century, between the Picts and Scots, in which the latter were routed, and Alpin, their king, with many nobles, was slain. The king's head, after the battle, being fastened to a pole, was carried by the victors to Abernethy, at that

time the most considerable Pictish town, to be exposed there to public view; but his body, according to tradition, was buried at Pitalpie." The large stone called the King's Cross still remains to the east of Pitalpie. It has a hole in the middle about a foot deep, in which, it is supposed, the royal standard was planted during the battle.*

Hurly Hawkin.—The site of a castle, said to have been built by Alexander I., King of Scotland, and known by the name of Hurly Hawkin, may be easily traced in an enclosure opposite to the churchyard of Liff, to the west. It is a projecting point or tongue of land. The apex or point and two of the sides are surrounded by a deep ravine. There is no access but from the north, on which side there might have been a ditch or fosse, though all traces of it, and even of any building on the spot, are almost obliterated.†

* Hollinshed relates, that Alpin was made prisoner, and "having his hands bound behind him, was led to the next town, (Dundee), and there beheaded. His head was set upon a pole and borne to Camelon, and there set up upon one of the highest turrets of the wall,"—from whence, according to the same author, certain Scots, succeeded by stratagem in removing it, and escaped with the same to their own country—that "the head of Alpin thus recovered was closed in a leaden coffin, and Kenneth himself, (son and successor of Alpin,) having in his company a great number of his nobles, went with it over into Colmkill, where he buried it in the Abbey, amongst the sepulchres of his elders, together with the residue of the body, in very solemn wise, as appertained."

Attention has been awakened, in this quarter, to the fate of King Alpin, from the following circumstance: A few weeks ago, as some labourers were employed in digging near the site of the stone, called the King's Cross, mentioned above, they discovered the skeleton of a human body, within six or eight yards from the cross. The few fragments of bones that remained were much decayed; and not more than eighteen inches beneath the surface of the ground. There were no traces of a coffin of any kind; and the skull was attached, or quite contiguous, to the other remains. It is quite out of the question to suppose that these could be the remains of Alpin, even admitting, what is not improbable, that after his decapitation and the head carried away, as a trophy by the Picts, the trunk might have been interred near the spot where the battle took place, and where the stone cross was erected, in memory of the engagement.

It is noticed in the former Statistical Account, that "not very remote from the mound or hillock, on which the King's Cross stands, there is another little hill in which were discovered eight or ten graves, having the bottom, sides, and top of flag-stones. The head of each grave was due west. The bones mouldered away on being touched."

Mr Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*, controverts the whole of the account given of King Alpin by Buchanan, Hollinshed, Boece, and others, and insists that these authors have confounded Pictish Elpin, who fell in 780, with the Scots-Irish Alpin, who fell a century after, at Lath Alpin, in Ayrshire. This statement rests principally on the authority of "the Register of St Andrews," and "the foundation charter of the town of Ayr, by William, in 1197, which, when describing the limits of its exclusive trade, calls for Lacht Alpin, the stone or grave of Alpin, as one of its distinguishing boundaries."—See Chalmers's *Caledonia*, page 303.

† The following particulars are stated in the former account, as connected with the above mentioned spot: "Alexander, according to the custom of those days, having a donation made him, at his baptism, by the Earl of Gowrie, his god-father, of the lands of Liff and Invergowrie, no sooner succeeded to the throne than he began to erect this palace, as Fordoun calls it. He was not, however, long permitted

Subterraneous Caves and Buildings.—In the former Account of this parish, a full and interesting description is given of a subterraneous building, discovered, it is said, a few years before, near Lundie House (now Camperdown.) The following is the account given of it, somewhat abridged :

“ The discovery was made in consequence of the frequent interruptions experienced in ploughing the field. Upon a search being made, flat stones were found of a surprising breadth, which were employed to cover certain artificial recesses which then appeared. One was larger than the rest, being 6 feet in breadth, 12 in length, and 5 in height. The walls and floor were of stone. This communicated with other smaller apartments by a passage about 2 or 2½ feet wide. The building stood on the shelving side of a rock. On the compartments being first opened, all of them were filled with a rich black mould, on removing which, the remains of some burnt matter were found, and fragments of bones, but so small, as rendered it impossible to ascertain whether they belonged to the human body or not. There were likewise found some querns or hand-mills, about 14 inches diameter, much worn, supposed to have been used in grinding corn. In the centre of some of these querns, a small bit of iron was fastened, showing the handle to have been of that metal.” Before this building was closed, we are told, it was minutely inspected by the late Sir David Dalrymple, Lord Hailes. On the farm of Balgartno, near the Tay, the plough is still frequently interrupted by stone coffins, as they are termed, of very rude construction. They abound particularly in the vicinity of the large boulder above noticed.

Church of Invergowrie.—Under this head must be noticed the remains of the church of Invergowrie, believed to be the most ancient place of Christian worship to the north of the Tay. The walls, however, which are standing, and are very entire, are of the plainest masonry, and bear no marks of antiquity. They cannot

to remain in it, without being disturbed. Some of his followers or attendants from Mearns and Morayshire, having joined in a conspiracy to seize on his person, the plot was discovered in the moment when they were endeavouring to force the doors of the palace, in the night; and the King, assisted by his chamberlain, Alexander Carron, the son of that Carron whom Malcolm III. had distinguished by the surname of Scrimgeour, and preferred to the office of carrying the royal standard, happily effected his escape. Embarking then at Invergowrie, he directed his course to the southern parts of the kingdom, where he raised a great force in order to repel and punish this insurrection. But, before proceeding in his expedition, he founded, as a tribute of gratitude to God, for the late deliverance and protection he had experienced, the church of the Monastery of Scoon, and made over to that church, in *dotum et glebam*, the lands of Liff and Invergowrie, formerly assigned to him; as a present, by the Earl of Gowrie.”—Vide Fordoun's Scot. Chron., also Buchanan.

possibly have belonged to the first edifice, erected by Boniface, a legate or missionary, who landed at that place from Rome, during the seventh century. On this point reference is made in the former account to Boeth. Hist., Archbishop Spottiswood, and Forbes on Tithes. The space enclosed within the walls of the church has, for generations, been appropriated as the burying-place of the families of Invergowrie and Mylnefield. The churchyard is often washed by the Tay.

III.—POPULATION.

From the former Statistical Account, it appears that, by Dr Webster's report, the number of inhabitants at that time was 1311.

The village of Kirktown of Liff is said to have contained in 1650 one-third at least of the whole inhabitants; the number of the whole, according to a report made by the minister about that time to the Presbytery of Dundee, amounting to 400 and upwards.*

Several of the feus having been, about the beginning of the last century, purchased by Lord Gray, and taken into his pleasure-grounds, as was also the glebe of Liff, the village was restricted to its present limits. It contains at present 26 families.

By decret of annexation for Liff and Benvie, dated August 1753, the examinable persons, or those above ten years of age, were reported to be 650; the examinable persons in Benvie, 150; total, 800.

By a survey of the inhabitants in January 1792, the number of examinable persons amounted to 1451. By the census of 1831, the whole population is stated to be 4217; the increase chiefly in the village of Lochee. That village being now politically connected with Dundee, or within the Parliamentary boundary, the population at last census (June 1841) was taken in connection with Dundee, and not with this parish. On that account, the precise amount of the inhabitants of Lochee is not known to me; but it cannot be under 3000 souls.

In the parish of Liff and Benvie, exclusive of Lochee, the number of souls by last census is	1508
Number of families,	304
employed in agriculture,	100
manufactures, including female weavers,	145
mechanics,	40
labourers,	87
masons,	30

* "The lands of Liff were part of an endowment to the monastery of Seoon, and appear to have been feued out by the commendator of that monastery into eight parts about the time of the Reformation. This laid the foundation of the village of Kirktown of Liff," mentioned above.

No. of farmers,	24
professional,	4
males,	704
females,	804

The number of illegitimate children born within the parish within the last three years is 7. In most of these cases, the parents were afterwards married.

In the Lunatic Asylum, Dundee, there are 3 patients belonging to this parish. One fatuous person is taken care of in a private family, at the expense of the kirk-session; and 5 by their relations, aided by the session. There are 2 persons, a brother and sister, deaf and dumb.

Character of the People.—The people, generally speaking, are peaceable and industrious, and, with a few marked exceptions, sober. It may be here remarked, that the bothie system, which is considered so injurious to the religious and moral character of an important class of our population, is by no means general in this parish. By far the greater number of farm-servants are married men.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—There is a considerable variety of soil in the parish. In general, that of the higher grounds is light, mixed with sand, upon a subsoil of rock or mortar. The lower grounds are either of a black soil, inclining to loam, or of clay. Being in the hands of skilful, sober, and industrious tenants, and at a short distance from Dundee, where all kinds of manure can be had, the lands are rendered very productive. Grain of all the ordinary kinds, wheat, barley, oats, pease, and beans, are in general cultivation.

The raising of green crop is an object of particular attention, within three or four miles of Dundee. The average price of grass of the first year, for green cutting, is about L.12 per acre. An acre of turnips will bring as much, and often more.

Potatoes are cultivated to a considerable extent. On some of the larger farms, from twenty to thirty acres are sometimes appropriated to this species of produce. Forty bolls per acre is considered a fair return. The average selling price varies from 8s. to 12s. though it sometimes rises to 15s. per boll of thirty-two stones, Dutch.

It is a common practice for the farmers to let a field in small lots, for a potato crop, at the rate of 1s. per pole, or L.10 per acre, to cottars or villagers, who provide seed, assist in planting,

hand-hoe and lift the crop, while the farmer furnishes manure, the use of his plough for the requisite drillings, and of his carts to lodge the produce.

For some years past, dairy husbandry has been gaining ground. On each of two farms in the parish, about forty cows, chiefly of the Ayrshire breed, are kept, and almost all the tenants adopt the system to a certain extent.

The North Highland sheep and Angus cattle are most common in this district, but no attention is paid to the breeding of either.

The rotation of cropping most commonly followed (for there are exceptions) is that of five, viz. two years grass succeeded by oats, and then potatoes and turnip: wheat is most frequently sown after potatoes, and barley after turnip; grass seeds being joined with both.

Farm-buildings, both in regard to dwelling-houses and farm-offices, are, in general, sufficiently large and commodious. Landlords are desirous to furnish their tenants with suitable accommodation, of which the following fact is a sufficient proof, that, within the last six or seven years, two steadings have been entirely rebuilt, and four more partially rebuilt, and thoroughly repaired and enlarged.

The ordinary duration of leases is nineteen years.

The only garden in the parish which merits particular notice is that at Camperdown, situated on a sloping bank, within a quarter of a mile of the house. It contains about two Scots acres within the walls, which are from fourteen to fifteen feet in height. Against the north wall stands a magnificent range of hot-houses, 230 feet in length, containing 6800 square feet of glass. The range consists of five vineries, three peach-houses, with conservatory, &c. all in the best condition. The garden and surrounding shrubbery embrace an area of about sixteen acres, and the whole extent of glass is about 8400 square feet.

In the glen to the east of Balruddery, above-mentioned, about nine acres are laid out as orchard and garden, well stocked with fruit trees, &c. having a fine stream of water running through the grounds.

At Beavie, there is an orchard, containing three acres, which was originally attached to the manse, a part of which building still remains, and forms a section of the dwelling-house on the farm of Beavie. The autumn pear, generally known in this part:

of the country by the name of the Benvie Pear, is a native of this spot. A very ancient tree of this sort, (probably the original), after being laid prostrate for many years, and still continuing to bear, was lately removed.

Quarries.—Quarries of excellent freestone abound in this parish. At Lochee are several, which have been wrought for a long period. From one of these, the materials for that magnificent work, the Dundee Harbour, were, for several years, chiefly obtained. Latterly, the trustees have had recourse to a quarry at Pyot Dikes, five miles from Dundee, where blocks of hard stone, of almost any size, may be had.

According to the best information to which I have access, the number of imperial acres, cultivated, may be stated at	4400
Imperial acres in pasture,	60
None altogether waste, or in a state of undivided common.	
Imperial acres, planted,	6700

Average gross amount of Produce.—

Grain of all kinds, say,	L.14,100	0	0
Potatoes,	4,200	0	0
Turnips,	3,200	0	0
Cutting grass and hay,	5,600	0	0
Land in cultivated pasture,	880	0	0
Gardens and orchards,	650	0	0
Annual thinnings and cutting of wood,	800	0	0
Stone quarries,	1800	0	0
Number of men employed in do., from 45 to 50.			

L.31,330 0 0

Wages.—Wages of labourers or farm-servants, 10s. per week ; of artisans, 15s.

Rent of Land.—Average rent of land per acre, L.2, or from L.2 to L.2, 10s.

Rental of the parish, about L.11,000.

Manufactures.—The chief, almost the sole, branch of manufacture carried on in this parish, is the weaving of coarse linen cloth, principally for exportation. This has almost entirely superseded the weaving of household linen, as hand-spinning has been almost wholly given up since the introduction of machinery, by means of which, this part of the work is performed with great accuracy. Young persons, of both sexes, are early trained to the loom ; but many of them have recourse to out-door-work, and find employment in agricultural operations during spring and harvest, and many labourers apply themselves to the loom during winter.

Estimating the population of that part of the village of Lochee, connected with this parish, at 3000, it cannot be far from the truth, to consider two-thirds of that number, both male and fe-

male, as employed in manufacture, and the remaining third, as consisting of labourers, masons, mechanics, carters, &c.

The depressed state of the linen trade, for some time past, has been severely felt by the operatives in this quarter. Many families have, in consequence, been brought to a state of indigence and destitution.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—The market-town to which the people of this parish resort is Dundee, where they find a ready sale for all country produce.

Villages.—Excepting the village of Lochee, there is scarcely another that deserves the name. There are twenty-six families in the Kirktown of Liff, about twenty in Denhead and Denmiln, and thirty-five in Birkhill Feus. The last may, in process of time, attain to a considerable population. The ground, which belongs to Mr Wedderburn of Birkhill, is feued in small portions, and at a low rate, and being situated on the turnpike road from Dundee to Meigle and Cupar-Angus, at the distance of from four to five miles from Dundee, an opportunity is afforded to weavers, or persons of small capital, to establish themselves in a convenient locality for carrying on their respective trades and occupations.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is new, having been finished in December 1831. It stands in a beautiful and commanding situation,—Lord Gray having, with his accustomed liberality, made over to the heritors, as a grant, a sufficient space in his fine park, for the site of the church, and suitable precincts. The building is of the early English style of Gothic architecture; the body of the church is of a plain rectangular figure. The bell tower, at the east end of the building, measures, from the base to the top of the battlements, 60 feet, and is surmounted by a stone spire, 48 feet in height, making the whole height, from the base of the church to the top of the vane, 108 feet. At the top of the battlements, there are introduced eight ornamented pinnacles, and four flying buttresses resting upon the corners of the spire. The effect thus produced, contrasted with the plain solidity of the whole structure, is very pleasing. The plan was furnished by Mr William M'Kenzie, architect, Perth.

The estimate for the building, exclusive of the spire, was nearly L.1900, but the actual expense exceeded L.2200. It is seated for 750, and is capable of containing 100 more if necessary. The number of communicants is about 600. The heritors, as is usual

in like cases, divided the area of the church among themselves, in proportion to their respective valued rents, and allotted certain seats to particular farms and pendicles, from whence it happens, that, in certain cases, more accommodation is allotted than there are persons to occupy; while the claims of those who do not rent land, or who reside on the estate of a proprietor who has a small valued rent in comparison of his people, are rather overlooked. The best method of obviating such inconvenience seems to be, by placing a reasonable portion of the church seats under the management of the kirk-session, so as to enable them to provide for any particular exigency. The sittings may be said to be all free.

The greater part of the manse is old. It is said to have been built for a lady connected with the family of Gray, who died before it was completed. After remaining in an unfinished state for several years, it was fitted up as a manse for Mr Playfair, when, upon the demise of Mr Donaldson, minister of Liff, he was admitted to the charge of the united parish, and removed his residence from Benvie to Liff.

During the last twenty years, the manse has received various repairs and additions.

The office-houses were built in 1822, and are very substantial and commodious.

The present glebe was given in exchange for the glebes of Benvie and Liff, and contains, including the garden, about ten acres of dry, sharp land, producing fair crops of grain and other farm produce. It might rent for about L.3 per acre.

The stipend is eighteen chalders of barley and oatmeal, in equal proportions. The allowance for communion elements is L.10. The minister of Benvie is superior of the Lady Well in Dundee.

In the parish of Liff proper the number of Dissenting families amounts to six; Episcopalian families, two; Roman Catholics, none.

Lochee Church.—About ten years ago, a large and commodious church or chapel, in connection with the Establishment, was erected, which cost the sum of L.2000. It was opened for Divine service in February 1830, and, in the month of April 1832, the present incumbent was ordained and admitted to the charge of the *quoad sacra* parish. The church is seated for nearly 1200. There are 100 free sittings. The income of the minister arises wholly from seat-rents, and six collections in the course of the year. At

the commencement, as might be supposed, a considerable debt lay upon this church; but it deserves to be mentioned, as a fact creditable to the managers, the people, and all concerned, that, in the course of a few years, a large portion of the debt was liquidated, and a considerable addition made to the income of the minister. In the village of Lochee, there are 120 Dissenting families; 3 or 4 Episcopalian do.; and 12 Roman Catholic do. The last are strangers, chiefly from Ireland, who come in quest of employment at the spinning-mills and other works. There is a Secession Church in Lochee, containing 650 sittings.

Prefixed to one of the parochial registers is a list of the ministers of Liff from an early period, of which the following is a copy, with a few additions, which bring down the line of succession to the present time: Mr James Duncan, date of admission not known; Mr Andrew Wedderburn, admitted 29th July 1646; Mr William Skinner, 19th August 1664; Mr John Chrystison, 30th July 1678; Mr Alexander Scott, 16th August 1704; Mr Thomas Donaldson, 5th April 1726; Mr James Playfair, 19th November 1758; Mr John Playfair, August 1773, (resigned in 1782, after which a vacancy occurred of about three years, in consequence of a law-suit between the families of Lauderdale and Gray, respecting the right of presentation to Benvie;) Mr Thomas Constable 12th May 1785; the present incumbent, 5th September 1817.

Education.—The parochial school and schoolmaster's house were rebuilt about twelve years ago, when the situation was changed from Denmiln, at all times inconvenient, and, in winter, almost inaccessible for children, to the present spot, having the advantage of good roads in all directions, and being, in every respect, preferable. The accommodation is ample and excellent. The dwelling-house consists of two stories. The school-room is large and lofty. The salary, the maximum. The school fees may amount to about L.40 per annum. The schoolmaster is also session-clerk.

There is a private or subscription school in Backmuir of Liff. A teaching room was lately built by voluntary contribution, and the only source of emolument the teacher enjoys arises from the fees of the scholars.

Lochee Schools.—1. The *quoad sacra* parish school was erected in 1837, partly by subscription, and partly by a grant from Government, at an expenditure of nearly L.300, and may contain about 800 scholars. It is partially endowed by the General As-

sembly's Education Committee to the amount of L.12, 10s. annually (as presently paid), and otherwise supported by school fees, on very moderate terms.

2. There is a school of industry, under the patronage of the Countess of Camperdown, which has been in operation for a year past, and promises to be of great use to young females. It is visited regularly by twelve ladies in the village in their turn, and is supported by subscription and very moderate fees from the scholars.

3. There are several other schools in the parish, supported entirely by fees from the scholars attending them. The number at school in the parish, in April last, was 501.

Poor.—In consequence of the poor of the village of Lochee being under the care of the kirk-session of Liff, and owing farther to the great increase of population in that village, and a proportional increase of pauperism, it has become necessary to have recourse to the legal mode of provision by assessment, which was first imposed during the last year (1841). Matters being in a transition state, in reference to the management of the poor, it may be sufficient to state the following particulars:

The number presently receiving parochial aid is 49; ~~the~~ average sum allotted to each is 7s. per month; temporary or occasional aid during the past year, L.25, 7s. 6d.; house-rents during do. L.21, 7s. 10d.; three patients in the Dundee Lunatic Asylum, and one boarded in ~~the~~ country, from L.60 to L.70.

The amount of collections at the church, L.52, 8s.; assessment, L.250; dues from hearses, mortcloth, &c. L.31, 11s. 6d.; from the managers of Lochee church, L.15.*

There may still be found, lingering in the minds of some, a feeling of reluctance to have recourse to parochial aid; but such cases have become rare. On the contrary, there is a great desire among the poor, generally, to get upon the roll, and that effected, the great struggle is, who shall get most.

Connected with this subject, there is one fact that deserves notice, viz. the frequent desertion of families by one or both of the parents. The kirk-session of this parish has, at present, the children of five families thus cast upon them. And although, in some instances, it is perfectly known that the father is earning good wages at no great distance, such is the existing state of the law,

* From 1832, when a minister was appointed to the Lochee chapel, up to 1840, the kirk-session of Liff received from the managers of that church or chapel from L.30 to nearly L.35 per annum for behoof of the poor. An assessment having been imposed, the sum above stated was paid from Lochee for the year 1841.

that, before the necessary steps can be taken to bring him up, a hint is perhaps conveyed to him of what is going on, and he removes to a different county, or plunges into one of our large commercial towns, where it becomes almost impossible, or, at all events, very troublesome and expensive to trace him; insomuch that the session is induced rather to provide for the deserted family than to expend money in a fruitless search after the parent. Even if he is discovered and subjected to a short imprisonment, his maintenance during his confinement, in addition to that of his family, falls on the parish; and no sooner is he set at liberty, than, in all probability, he again decamps, setting at defiance the claims of humanity and justice, and the terrors of the law.

Independently of the additional burden thus unfairly imposed on the poor's fund, there is something so revolting to every right feeling in thus trampling upon the most sacred ties that bind together the social system, that the evil (for it is a serious and growing evil) calls loudly for the consideration of those who may have it in their power to provide a remedy.

Fairs.—There are no fairs held within this parish.

Public-Houses.—The number of public-houses in the parish of Liff proper is four, situated generally at considerable distances from each other. In Lochee there are at least twelve, including shops where spirits are sold, both in and out of doors.

September 1842.