

PARISH OF RESCOBIE.

PRESBYTERY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS. *

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name of the parish is of uncertain origin. It is sometimes spelled Roscobie. In former days, it seems to have been called Rescolpyne, or Rescolbyne,† and Roscolpin.‡

Extent.—The parish lies from east and by south, to west and by north. It is about 9 miles long, and from 1½ to 2½ broad. It contains perhaps about 17 square miles.

Boundaries.—It has the parish of Forfar on the west; Kirrie-

* Drawn up by the late incumbent, the Rev. William Rogers.

† Vide Fordun's *Scotichronicon*, Lib. v. cap. 29.

‡ See No. v. of the Appendix to Innes's *Critical Essay*, p. 803.

muir on the north-west corner; Oathlaw or Finhaven and Aberlemno on the north; Aberlemno, and Guthrie, and Kirkden on the east; and Kirkden, and Dunnichen and Forfar on the south. The figure of the parish is very irregular.

There are four hills connected with, though not wholly situated in the parish,—the hill of Dunnichen or Burnside, the top of which forms a part of its southern boundary; the Green hill of Burnside, to the north of the mansion-house; the hill of Carse, in the north-west quarter of the parish; and the Double hill, whose base is about half a mile to the north of the lake, called, on the east part, the hill of Turin, and on the west, the hill of Pitscandly. From the top of this hill, especially the east top, where it is called the hill of Turin, there is one of the finest and most extensive views, both of sea and land, any where to be had.

The hills of Dunnichen and of Turin are said to rise about 600 feet above the lakes; and the lakes are said to be 186 feet 9 inches above high water at Arbroath.

Hydrography.—The lake or loch of Rescobie, which intersects that part of the parish which lies between Dunnichen and Turin hills, is more than a mile long, and more than the third of a mile in breadth, where widest. The depth is very variable, being from 2 to 20 feet. It is of ordinary temperature.

The Lunan water, which has its source in the north-west part of Restenet Moss, runs through the lake of Rescobie from west to east, then through the lake of Balgavies, and, after a course of about ten miles farther, falls into the sea at Lunan Bay; and there is a streamlet or burn, called the Lemna, that takes its rise in the neighbouring parish of Aberlemno, giving, probably, that parish a part of its name, and running west through the lands of Carse, forms for some space the boundary betwixt this parish and Forfar on the south; skirts the west side of this parish, forming there also the boundary between the parishes of Forfar and Rescobie; turns to the east, at the north-west boundary of the parish, where it bounds this parish from Kirriemuir; and running for four or five miles in an easterly direction, through the southern part of the parish of Oathlaw or Finhaven, discharges itself near Finhaven Castle, into the Esk, nearly opposite to, or almost directly north of, its own source in Aberlemno.

Geology and Mineralogy.—Charles Lyell, Esq., Junior, of Kinnordy, has, in his *Elements of Geology*, given a section of twenty miles of Forfarshire, from north-west to south-east, from the foot

of the Grampians to the sea at Arbroath, in which he describes Turin Hill; and this distinguished geologist has most obligingly honoured the writer of this with a communication concerning the strata and rocks of Turin and Pitscandly Hills, wherein he says, "Rescobie forms one of a great line of lakes and marshes, which extends through Strathmore to the loch of Forfar, and from thence to Lunan Bay. Like most of these lochs, it is surrounded by hillocks, and ridges of sand and gravel, containing boulders of many Grampian rocks mixed with fragments of paving-stone and other formations, such as occur in the immediate neighbourhood.

"The hills of Pitscandly and Turin, the highest point of which is 627 feet above the loch of Rescobie, and 814 above the sea, consist of the gray paving-stone interstratified with conglomerate or pudding-stone; the whole forming one of the oldest members of the old red sandstone formation.

"The dip of the beds in the Wemyss quarry, in the hill of Pitscandly, is rather to the westward of north, and at an angle of about 16° ; it is more than forty feet thick, and is covered by a mass of puddingstone about thirty feet in thickness. In the hill of Turin there are two cliffs, one above the other, facing to the south, in both of which freestone and conglomerate appear.

"On the farm of Baldardie, the pebbles in the conglomerate consist not only of white quartz, chlorite slate, trap, and other crystalline and igneous rocks, but also of well-rounded masses of a red sandstone with quartz pebbles. This fact deserves notice, as showing, that in this region, a more ancient red stone had been formed, consolidated, broken up, and rounded by water before one of the oldest portions of the old red of Forfarshire originated.

"The upper precipice of conglomerate, in the hill of Turin, is about thirty feet perpendicular, and is overhanging at the summit.

"In the great paving quarries of Turin Hill, remarkable examples occur of wedge-shaped beds of conglomerate and paving-stone. Thus one bed of conglomerate attains a thickness of twenty feet at one place, and grows gradually thinner as we proceed westward, until it thins out and gives place to pavement-stone; the fine grain of which is strongly contrasted with the coarseness of the consolidated gravel with which it has been associated.

"The Quarry Park pits, on the estate of Turin, supply an abundance of fine pavement; and they exhibit a remarkable fault, running nearly in the line of the strike of the beds, or north-east and south-west, and shifting the beds about six feet perpendicular.

This fault, which is about a foot wide at the surface, widens as it descends to nine feet, below which it has not been worked. The materials with which the rent has been filled are composed of the ruins of the pavement beds.

“*Boulders and Erratics.*—Over the surface of the hills of Pitscandly and Turin, especially on the northern slope, at considerable heights, are scattered many blocks, both rounded and angular, of rocks which must have been transported from great distances. They are mingled confusedly with fragments which have been derived from the contiguous hills. Some of the erratics are of hornblende-slate; others of mica-slate. One of these last, measuring three feet in its longest diameter, occurs within fifty feet of the summit of Turin Hill; but the example most worthy of notice is to be seen about fifty feet below the top of the hill of Pitscandly, about 500 yards north-west of the farm of Baldardie. The block consists of mica-slate, of a hard and durable kind, in which the quartz predominates, and in which the laminae are much bent and zig-zaged. This kind of rock is seen *in situ* on the northern extremity of the Creigh Hill, north of the lake of Lintrathen; and this is one of the nearest points in the Grampians, from which the block in question could have been transported. The fragment is angular, and measures 13 feet in length by 7 in breadth, and stands 7 feet high above ground: close to it, are four other angular pieces of the same kind of rock, from three to six feet in diameter. Few geologists, of the present day, will be disposed to deny, that this huge fragment must have been carried into its present position by the agency of ice; although a great difference of opinion may exist, respecting the manner in which it and its companions were conveyed from the Grampians, across the intervening hollow of Strathmore, and lodged in what may be considered as the flanks of the Sidlaw hills.

“*Organic Remains.*—The only ones hitherto met with, occur in the pavement of Quarry Park, and appear to be vegetable impressions. The same have been met with in Fife, and have been called *fucoidal*. One of them consists of an assemblage of small hexagonal plates, first noticed by the Rev. Dr Fleming, in a similar stone, and of the same age, near Flisk, in Fife.”

Thus far the learned professor. The writer hereof may only add, that in the upper Wemyss quarry, or quarry north of Wemyss farm-house, a fossil tree is stated to have been found imbedded in a stratum of caltstone; and that the trunk, the branches, and

even the leaves were distinctly visible. James Powrie, Esq. of Reswallie, has in his possession a portion of it that had been apparently near the root.

There are five quarries on the south side of Pitscandly and Turin hills: one of them not wrought at present. In the four that are wrought, the point and amount of dip of the strata were taken by the minister and schoolmaster of the parish, and are as follow:—In the Quarry Park, the point of dip is from 30° to 40° east of the magnetic north, that is, from more than half a point to rather more than a point to the east of true north, and the amount of dip is from 6 to $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches on a yard; that is, forming an angle of about 10° . In the Turin Hill quarry, the dip points exactly to the magnetic north; and the amount of dip is nine inches on a yard; that is, the angle of dip is 14° . In Wemyss upper quarry, the point of dip is also the magnetic north, and the amount of dip is $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches on a yard; thus forming an angle of dip of nearly 13° ; and in Wemyss lower quarry, the point of dip is also to the magnetic north; and the amount of dip or inclination is $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches on a yard; or at an angle of rather more than 15° .

It is evident from the preceding statements that the point of dip of the Quarry Park alone is a little to the east of true north. In the other three quarries, it is to the west of the true north, just as far as the declination or variation of the compass, that is, about two points west of true north. It is to be observed also, that the amount of dip is different in all the quarries. In the Park Quarry, it was a little different in different places. And between the upper and lower Wemyss quarries, there is the difference of an inch and a half upon a yard, although the two quarries do not seem to be much above a hundred yards distant from one another.

The way in which the conglomerate repeatedly alternates in some of these quarries with the paving-stone is truly astonishing. It may be stated also, that all the workmen that have been at the different quarries in the county, attest that, north of Viney water, the dip of the strata is to the north, and that to the south of that water it is to the south. The same also plainly appears from Professor Lyell's section of Forfarshire in his *Elements of Geology*.

In the loch of Rescobie, there is still a considerable quantity of marl. There are in many places two beds or deposits,—the upper bed consists of fine shell marl, though at times intermixed

with clay, sand, moss, and other extraneous substances; the lower bed is of inferior quality, of a sandy colour, and has but few shells. The marl in the loch was dragged till of late years, and used as a manure, especially in compost. And the farmers of Drimmie and Turin, that are liferenters, have still a right by their leases to drag marl yearly for their respective farms; and they had for many years a boat for the purpose. This privilege, however, for some time past, has not been exercised.

The soils in the parish are very various. Some fields are of a thin moorish soil. Some are gravelly sharp land, and bear a heavy boll. Some are clayey, and some loamy. There is not unfrequently a considerable variety of soil, not only on the same farm, but in the same field. On a good part of the estate of Carse, and also of the estate of Pitscandly, the soil is, for this part of the country, particularly fertile.

Zoology.—The writer knows of no very rare species of animals in the parish. The roebuck, *Cervus capreolus*, is now and then seen in the woods of Burnside. *Falco æruginosus*, moor-buzzard, was seen by Mr Don on the hills of Turin and Pitscandly. The wild swan, *Anas cygnus*, has occasionally visited our lake, but very seldom. *Anas Strepera*, the gadwall or grey duck, and *A. penelope*, or wigeon, are visitors of it. *Ardea stellaris*, the bittern, a rare bird, is sometimes to be seen in the lake of Rescobie. *Tetrao tetrix*, the blackcock, (two of which Mr Don of Forfar mentions were shot at Turin hill in the winter of 1794,) is now not uncommon. It is seen occasionally in the eastern quarter of the parish. *Emberiza Schæniclus*, reed-bunting, is common near the lake. *Motacilla salicaria*, reed-sparrow, is seen among the reeds by the side of the lake, but it is not very common.

The loch of Rescobie would abound, were it not for the numerous fishers from Forfar, in pike, and perch, and eel; but there is no trout. Pike has occasionally been taken out of the lake, of a large size. The largest that the writer has himself seen, was about 17 or 18 pound weight, and about 3 feet long; but considerably larger are said to have been caught. Of worms, of the order *Intestina*, the following, *Planaria fusca* and *lactea*, are found in the lake of Rescobie.

Botany.—Mr Don, in his "Account of the native plants in the county of Forfar," says, *Helvella spathulata*, and *Clavaria militaris*, are to be found in General Hunter's woods at Burnside, besides a great many others. I may also add the *Boletus perennis*,

versicolor, *abietinus*, *suberosus*, and *igniarius*: the latter is called touch-wood, being used for tinder. Also the *Riccia fruticulosa*, with *Jungermannia scularis*, *albicans*, *ovata*, *trichomanis*, and *excisa*.

When the botanist traverses the marshes, and examines the lakes, he will find his trouble amply repaid. In the lakes of Forfar, Rescobie, and Balgavies, he will meet with the *Typha latifolia*; this is also in a rivulet not far from Pitmuies, by the side of the turnpike road that leads from Forfar to Arbroath. In the lakes of Rescobie and Balgavies, are likewise to be found *Nymphæa lutea* and *alba*, and *Ceratophyllum demersum*; and on their margins, *Lysimachia thyrsiflora*: the latter plant, though rare in other parts of Britain, is not uncommon in Angus-shire. *Potamogeton perfoliatum*, *lucens*, *crispum*, *pectinatum*, *compressum*, *gramineum*, *pusillum*, likewise occur in these lakes. *Cicuta virosa*, which is one of the most virulent of all the vegetable poisons, grows on their margins. Cattle, when allowed to browse by the sides of the lakes in the winter months, are sometimes deceived, by its smell being very weak at that season; and when once they have eaten it, it generally proves fatal in two or three hours. When the summer is a little advanced, the odour of the plant warns the cattle, and then they carefully avoid it. The *Scirpus lacustris*, the well known rush so much used for making rush-bottomed chairs, is common.

The more remarkable plants in the parish are the following: *Dianthus Armeria*, discovered on fields near the seat of Charles Gray, Esq. of Carse, the only place where Mr Don had seen it in Scotland, *Crepis pulchra*, among the debris of the rocks of the hills of Turin and Pitscandly, but very rare,—and one of the *Zoophyta*, the connecting link between the vegetable and animal kingdom, called the *Spongia lacustris*, observed by Mr Don in the lake of Rescobie.

Plantations.—There are several thriving plantations in the parish, though of no great extent. They consist chiefly of common larch, and spruce fir, though frequently intermixed with ash, and oak, and birch, and elm. There are soils congenial to every sort of timber.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Rescobie seems, in times long since gone by, to have been a place of considerable consequence. It once had its castle like other places of importance; but not a vestige of it now remains. The place where it stood cannot with certainty be pointed out, or

accurately ascertained. Tradition bears that the name of the castle was Bairnsdale, or Barnsdale, perhaps a corruption of Banedale, and that the foundations of the castle are still to be seen in the loch in a clear day. It is evident from the kirk-session records, that Rescobie once had its kirk-town; but this town also has disappeared.

Rescobie is said to have been a considerable burgh of barony. It seems to have formed a part of the archdeaconry of St Andrews, and it gave name to a barony within the regality of St Andrews. In 1557, the Archdeacon of St Andrews, with the permission of the Archbishop and chapter, granted to Richard Shoreswood a charter of the lands of Wilkieston (in Fife), and of the brewlands and alehouse of Rescobie.

In 1561, at the general assumption of the rents of ecclesiastical benefices, the spirituality of the kirk of Rescobie is stated as a part of the benefice of the archdeacon. And in the Archbishop's tax roll of 1630, Pitscandly, Carsebank, Carse, Balmadies, and mill of Rescobie, appear among the lands which held of the archiepiscopal see.*

Eminent Characters.—King Dofnald, or Donald the seventh, called by some Donald Bane, the brother of Malcolm Canmore,† is said to have died in confinement at Rescobie, anno 1097. After being defeated and taken prisoner, his eyes were put out by the orders of his nephew, King Edgar, according to the cruel policy of a barbarous age. The "Chronicon Elegiacum," a monkish poem, alluding to these things, says,

"Rursus Dofnaldus, Duncano rege perempto,
Ternia rex annis regia sceptrā tenet.
Captus ab Edgāro vitā privatus. At ille
Rescolpyne obiit: ossaque Iona tenet."‡

For Rescolpyne there is given as a various reading in the margin, Rescolbyne. It has been doubted whether the expression in the third line, "vita privatus," means that King Donald was reduced to, and lived in a private condition, or that he was put to death by Edgar. But the words that follow seem plainly to restrict the expression to the first of these interpretations. Of this illustrious but unfortunate personage, it is said again, "Donald Mac-Donachat regnavit iii. annis. Hic captus est ab Edgar Mac-

* From Martini Reliquiæ Divi Andree.

† Knox's Topography of the Basin of the Tay.

‡ Forduni Scotiechronicon, Lib. v. chap. 29.

Malcolm, coecutus est et mortuus in Roscolpin, sepultus in Dundeldon: Hinc translata ossa in Ionam.*

Valued Rent.—The valued rent of the parish is now thought to be L.2586 Scots. In the tables attached to Mr Headrick's survey of the county, the valued rent is said to be L.2615, 16s. 8d. Scots. When Mr Headrick's tables were drawn up, the real rent of the parish is stated to have been L.1800 Sterling. It would now be, if all the liferent leases were expired, considerably upwards of L.5000.

Land-owners.—The land-owners of the parish are, Charles Gray, Esq. of Carse, who has of valued rent in this parish L.580, 13s. 4d. Scots; John Farquhar, Esq. of Pitscandly, L. 566, 13s. 4d.; General Hunter of Burnside, L.516, 13s. 4d.; Sir Charles Ochterlony of Ochterlony or Balmadies, L.489, 14s. 2d.; Mrs Carnegie of Lower and Turin, for Drimmie and the Moss of Rescobie, L.188, 13s. 4d., and no valued rent at all, so far as can be seen, for the lands of Turin, lying in this parish; James Anderson, Esq. of Clocksbriggs, for Rescobie, L.100; William Powrie, Esq. of Reswallie, L.100; and James Mudie, Esq. of Pitmuies, L.43, 12s. 6d.; the Earl of Strathmore, according to the county cess-roll, L.29, 16s. 8d.

There are two other proprietors, the proprietor of Dunnichen, and the proprietor of Guthrie, who have some acres of land, and each of them a house in the parish, but who are liable to no public burdens whatever.

Parochial Registers.—The date of the earliest entry in the parochial register is 23d December 1677. The register of discipline, and of receipt and expenditure of poor's funds, previous to the ordination of the present incumbent, consists of three volumes. There are several chasms or blanks between the dates in some parts. The third volume is not filled up beyond December 1785. Since the admission of the present minister, two new volumes have been commenced and continued,—one for minutes of discipline, and another for receipt and expenditure of the poor's funds. There are, besides, a register of baptisms or births, and another for proclamation of bans.

From the session records it is evident, that for some time subsequent to 1677, the Presbytery to which the parish of Rescobie belonged, was the united Presbytery of Dundee and Forfar. It appears also from these records, that since 20d December 1677,

* From No. v. of the Appendix to Innes's Critical Essay.

to this date, November 1840, there have been seven ministers of Rescobie, namely, Mr Patrick Lyon, who succeeded Mr David Lindsay, and was ordained 23d December 1677, and died in August 1703. Mr John Dougall, who was admitted 22d March 1704, and died 1st December 1723. Mr John Dougall, said to be son of the preceding, who was admitted 15th September 1725, and deposed about May 1748. Mr Robert Trail, who was admitted on the 21st July 1749, and translated to Panbride, October 1768. Mr William Key, who was admitted April 26th 1764, and died September 1776. Mr Thomas Wright, who was admitted on 3d April 1777, and died on 9th April 1808; and Mr William Rogers, who was admitted on the 10th May 1809.

From the session records it appears also, that there was a Mr William Arthur presented to the parish, but not ordained. On 3d July 1748, an intimation is given of a meeting of Presbytery "to be held at Rescobie the 14th instant, and then to offer Mr William Arthur, the patron's presentee, to the parish." On the 14th, the Presbytery met according to appointment, but it is not said what was done. The presentee, however, seems never to have been accepted of, or admitted; for on the 8th January 1749, another meeting of Presbytery is intimated to be held on the 19th, to make an offer of Mr Trail to the parish to be their minister.

During the period already mentioned, namely, from 1687 to 1840, it appears that there were 27 schoolmasters in this parish. For a considerable time, they are spoken of as admitted to the office of reader and schoolmaster. And it appears that the Presbytery were then accustomed sometimes to delegate their power of deposition of schoolmasters to kirk-sessions; for, in a minute of session, dated 2d February 1785, a Mr Walker is, according to an act passed by the Presbytery to that effect, deposed by the minister and session in the Presbytery's name.

Antiquities.—There are two stones at Blackgate of Pitscandly, concerning which there have been various conjectures. Some have imagined them to be rude monuments of distinguished chiefs that fell there in battle. Now Buchanan informs us that there was a very bloody battle fought at Restenet betwixt the Picts and the Scots, when Feredeth, King of the Picts, was slain. This battle took place about the year 831, when Alpin was King of the Scots. Buchanan says,* "cruentissima pugna usque ad noctem incerta victoria conflixerunt." Restenet is near to Pitscandly, which is

* *Rerum Scotticarum Historia, Lib. v. cap. 57.*

said to mean *the grave of the multitude*. Indeed, in early days, the mansion-house of Pitscandly was on the northern border of the lake of Restenet, where it is not improbable the battle, mentioned by Buchanan, took place. The learned and Rev. Mr Headrick of Dunnichen, however, seems to think these stones the remains of a Druidical circle,* and states that it is the only one he has seen in the county of Angus. He speaks of some of the stones having been "demolished, so that the circle is not now complete." This may be the true state of the case. It is not impossible that the large stone, which is more than ten feet high and more than six feet broad, marks the place where Feredeth, King of the Picts, fell, or was buried; and that the other stone is in memory of some other inferior but also distinguished chief. Many of high rank fell at the same time with the King. Buchanan says, "cum flore nobilitatis una interiit."

There is also a ruin on the top of Turin Hill. It is thus described by Mr Wright in his Statistical Account: "It has evidently been anciently a stronghold, or place of defence, consisting of various extensive contiguous buildings, with a circular citadel of about forty yards in diameter. The situation has been well chosen, being secured by an impregnable rock in front, much like the face of Salisbury Crags, and of difficult access all around. It is now called Kemp or Camp Castle." The Rev. Mr Headrick takes no notice of this ruin; but it is evident from what he says with regard to others, that he would class it among the hill-forts that were very skilfully built of rude stones without any cement. And he thinks that their original object was to protect particular tribes against the violence of their neighbours, with whom they exercised deadly feuds. This is not an improbable account of the matter. There is scarcely a vestige now of the "extensive contiguous buildings;" but there are still some remains of the "circular citadel." It was measured by Mr Arthur and the writer; and the thickness of the walls was, in one place, 13 feet, and in other, at the south-east corner, 14. The diameter within walls was 85 feet 4 inches from west to east, and 92 feet from north to south. The area of the circle within wall is 685 square yards. Many of the stones of the foundation are more than 3 feet long, from 2 to 3 feet broad, and about 1 foot thick.

There is a circular place on the Hill of Pitscandly called Rod's Redè, which was probably also a place of defence. The form

* Agricultural Report of Forfarshire, p. 177.

is still visible; but the fort is entirely demolished, only one or two of the foundation stones remaining, and these almost wholly covered over with grass.

The Castle of Rescobie has been already mentioned. There were, till lately, the ruins of another place called Weems or Wemyss Castle,—a little to the north-east of the farm of Westmains of Turin. It is said to have been possessed by one Lindsay, who was a relative of another of the same name at Balgavies in the parish of Aberlemno, and where the ruins of a castle are still distinctly visible. These two Lindsays, it is said, united their forces, and beat off Kemp, the possessor of the stronghold on the top of the Hill of Turin, and compelled him to retire to another castle that he had at Dunnottar. The ruins of this castle or fort were, a few years ago, completely removed.

There is a place on the farm of Rescobie, belonging to Mr Anderson of Clacksbriggs, which was formerly called the Bloody Butts. Perhaps this is a corruption of Blood-witts, which was a fine paid to the superior in cases of manslaughter, on account of the proprietor losing so much of his property or live-stock,—for so the common people were once accounted, being viewed as *adscripti glebæ*. This portion of land, then, may have once been paid as a compensation for blood that had been shed.

When the railroad was forming, the workmen came upon one of those subterraneous buildings called weems, probably from the Gaelic *wumb*, a cave. It was on the farm of Wemyss of Pitscandy, in the third field from the farm-house, and near to where the bridge is, that crosses the railroad. There was an ancient hand-mill, called a quern, found in it, and a good deal of ashes towards the inner end. Some think that these subterraneous buildings were hiding-holes, formed by the ancient inhabitants, for the purpose of concealing both their persons and property, during seasons of danger. Others, again, have supposed that they were winter habitations of the rude natives.

There is on the estate of Balmadies, or Ochterlony, and farm of Chapelton, a cemetery, called the chapel-yard. In that burying-ground, there are 18 stones, 15 of which are in a row, belonging to the Pearsons of Balmadies. The oldest date which can be discovered on the stones is 9th June 1625, and the latest 10th November 1771. It is probable that this had been a Roman Catholic erection.

Modern Buildings.—The mansion-houses in the parish are those

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of Burnside, built by the present proprietor's father; Balmadies, now Ochterlony, built in 1821 by Mr Stephens, the late proprietor; Pitscandly, an old but good house, pleasantly situated on the west side of the Hill of Pitscandly; Carse, belonging to Charles Gray, Esq.; Drimmie, belonging to Mrs Carnegy of Lower and Turin, the sole trustee for her son, who is a minor; Reswallie, a neat house on the south-west side of the lake of Rescobie.

There is a new flour and meal-mill at Milldens, which was erected by Mr Stephens when proprietor of Balmadies.

III.—POPULATION.

Amount of population by return to Dr Webster in 1755,	798
last Statistical Account,	984
census 1801,	870
1811,	920
1821,	874
1831,	808
1841,	788

The cause of the decrease of population seems to be the increase, in three or four instances, of the size of farms,—two, and in one instance three, being thrown into one; and a considerable portion of the property of the principal proprietor being at present, and having been for some years, laid out in grass.

The number of proprietors having land of the yearly value of L.50 and upwards is 8,—two of them reside in the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The number of acres, standard imperial measure, in the parish, cultivated or occasionally so, is about 4735; and the number of acres of permanent pasture, about 617. There is no undivided common in the parish. The number of acres under wood is about 536.

The Scotch fir is indigenous in the neighbourhood. The kind of trees generally planted is, the Scotch fir, the larch, oak, ash, birch, elm, frequently intermixed.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land per imperial acre in the parish is about L.1, 4s. There is a great variety in the value of arable land in this parish, as it varies from 16s. to L.2, 10s. per imperial acre. It is not usual in this quarter to let pasture land at the rate of so much per ox or cow grazed. Grass parks are let at so much per acre, or per park, as can be agreed on. The average value of permanent pasture in the hands of the farmers, per imperial acre, is about 8s. The value of the permanent pasture runs from 5s. to L.1, 10s. per imperial acre.

There are very few sheep kept permanently in the parish, till they

are fed off. The common breed of the cattle is the Angus-shire, with a mixture here and there of the Durham.

Manufactures.—The only manufacture in the parish is that of coarse white linen. The number employed in weaving it, is 29 males and 26 females.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—The nearest market-town is Forfar, distant rather more than three miles from the parish church. There is no village in the parish, and only four or five hamlets.

Means of Communication.—There is no post-office. There are two turnpike roads that extend through the parish from west to east, one from Forfar, running on the south side of the loch to Arbroath, and another from Forfar, on the north side of the loch, to Montrose. And there is the turnpike road from Forfar to Brechin, that extends through the west and north-west end of the parish. There is also the Auldbar turnpike from Brechin, which skirts a small part of the east side of the parish. The length of all these in the parish cannot be less than nine or ten miles. The state of the bridges and fences in the parish is good.

The railroad betwixt Forfar and Arbroath was opened in December 1838, constructed for conveying passengers and goods. It has hitherto succeeded beyond expectation, especially in the number of passengers conveyed since it was opened.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is centrally placed. It was built in 1820, is in good repair, and abundantly large for the population. It affords accommodation for 560 persons with ease.

The manse was built in the summer of 1837, is a substantial house, and has a neat appearance in front. The church and manse are beautifully situated on the north side of the lake.

The extent of the glebe is betwixt eight and nine Scotch acres, or about eleven acres imperial. Some part of the glebe is well worth L.2 an acre, and some of it scarcely worth L.1.

The amount of the stipend is L.130, 12s. 3½d. Sterling, and 68 bolls, 1 firloft, 3½ lippies of meal, and 28 bolls, 3 firlofts, and 3½ lippies of barley.

The number of families attending the Established Church is 132; the number of communicants 350.

The number of families of Dissenters, is, one family of Independents, three of Episcopalians, seven of the United Associate Synod, and one family of no religious profession.

The number of communicants, belonging to these Dissenters,

is, of Independents, 3; of Episcopalians, 11; of the United Associate Synod, 16. There is, besides, one servant woman, an Anabaptist, and another a Roman Catholic, in the parish. In one or two cases, the heads of families are Dissenters, and the families themselves belong to the Established Church. In some other cases, there is a servant a Dissenter, whilst the heads and all the rest of the family belong to the Established Church.

Education.—There is no school at present in the parish, except the parochial; and in it the ordinary branches of education are taught. The fees are very moderate. The salary of the schoolmaster is L.31. The average amount of school fees per annum is L.10, or L.11. The schoolmaster has the legal accommodations.

Library.—There is a parochial library in the parish, conducted by a committee of managers.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of poor at present on the roll or receiving parochial aid, is 12. The number varies from 8 to 12 or 13. Besides the regular monthly allowance, there are sums paid for house-rents, coals, clothes, funeral expenses, &c. amounting to about L.12 a year for the last seven years. The average yearly amount of church collections for the last seven years is L.26, 8s. 3½d. The yearly average amount of other funds for the same period is L.9, 11s. 8½d. As we have, for a number of years, been expending more than we have been receiving, the heritors have kindly and wisely come forward, and contribute a sum every half-year in order to prevent the funds we have from being wholly swept away. The disposition among the poor to refrain from seeking parochial relief is still exhibited in some few instances; but it is fast disappearing.

Fairs.—There are no fairs held now in the parish. In former days, but very long ago, there was one held near the manse. Tradition calls it St Triduane's, commonly pronounced St Trodlin's. It is now held at Forfar; but there is a stone still standing near the kirk-stile, where, it is said, the superior of the fair, Lord Strathmore, or his deputy, held, on fair days, his court.

Alehouses.—There are three alehouses in the parish.

Fuel.—The principal fuel used in the parish is coal, procured usually from Arbroath.