

PARISH OF FORDOUN.*

PRESBYTERY OF FORDOUN, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS.

THE REV. JAMES LESLIE, D. D. MINISTER.

I.†—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—“FORDOUN (or Fordun, as it was anciently written,) is said to be a Gaelic word, signifying ‘the anterior or prominent hill,’ and is very descriptive of the situation of the village and church of Fordoun, which are placed on the brow or declivity of Finella Hill, the most prominent hill in that quarter. This hill is completely separated from the Grampians, which lie behind it, by a strath, to which the name of *Strath Finella* properly belongs, although the term has of late years been applied to the hill itself. *Finella is the hill which rises from Strath Finella.* This parish was known by the name of Fordoun as far back as can be traced; but it, or at least a district of it near to the church, was at one time called also Palladius or Paldy Parish, in consequence of a chapel which still stands in the church-yard, and was dedicated to St Palladius. Several of the parishes in this neighbourhood had two names, the one more general, and which applied to the whole parish, the other taken from some Romish saint to whom a chapel had been erected, and under whose patronage the Catholic Church was anxious to have it believed that the parish was placed,—thus Conveth *alias* Laurencekirk, Aberluthnott *alias* St Mary’s or Marykirk. There is no certainty as to the period when St Palladius’ Chapel was first erected. Although the tradition is, that Palladius lived and died at Fordoun, it is more probable, that amidst that inundation of monks which came early from Italy into Scotland, some of them, attracted by the beauty of the place, fixed their residence at Fordoun, and built there a chapel to their favourite saint, pretending, no doubt, that they had brought some

* Drawn up by George Robertson, Esq. Balmanno.

† Notice by Dr Leslie.

of his bones and other relics along with them. These were probably placed in a humble chest at first, but, as the fame of the saint increased, and, consequently, also the pilgrimages to his chapel, it was thought necessary to remove them from their first humble resting-place to a *silver shrine*, a present from the Archbishop of St Andrews.

“Fordoun was a vicarage belonging to the Archbishop of St Andrews, and was called a *Mensal Church*, the teinds of the parish being allotted for the support of the archbishop’s table. Forbes or Tytler says, it was called ‘*The Mother Church of the Mearns.*’ Although the period when St Palladius’ Chapel was built cannot now be ascertained, yet we are certain the chapel is of great antiquity.* This is not only evident from the appearance of the foundations, but also from the universal declaration of the early Scotch historians, that Kenneth the Third, who was killed by Finella near Kincardine Castle or Palace in this parish, had come to Kincardine, in order to make a pilgrimage to St Palladius’ Chapel. Kenneth ascended the throne in 970, and was murdered in 994; and from the circumstance of his making a pilgrimage to the chapel at Fordoun, it must have been a place of noted sanctity before that period. There is a *well* in the minister’s ground, called St Palladius’ Well, from whence the monks who had charge of the shrine and the pilgrims were probably furnished with water. An old house which stood at the entry into the church-yard, and was pulled down within these few years, in order to enlarge the burying-ground, went formerly by the name of the Manse, and perhaps was the habitation of the monks. A market, one of the largest in the *Mearns*, which at one time stood at no great distance from the chapel, but which was afterwards removed some miles in consequence of an exchange or sale of land, went by the name of Palladius or Paldy-Fair, a name which it still retains.”

Extent.—The mean length of the parish, extending from south-west to north-east, or from Nether Craigniston to Mondynes, may be about 8 miles; and its mean breadth, from south-east to north-west, that is, from Pittarrow to the summit of the Grampians above

* The very old church of Fordoun, which had stood two hundred or three hundred years, and was 100 feet long over walls, and 24 feet in breadth at the widest, and 16 at the narrowest, gave way in 1787, and was replaced by a new one in 1788. In 1827, the roof of that new church also gave way, and was replaced in 1830 by a large and most elegant structure, the admiration of all who visit it.—Note by Dr Lealie.

Drumtochty, about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles,—thus making its superficial contents about 44 square miles.

Boundaries.—The parish of Fordoun is of a quadrangular form, and is bounded on the south-west, by Fettercairn; on the south and south-east, by the parishes of Marykirk, Laurencekirk, and Arbuthnott; on the north-east, by Glenbervie; and on the north-west, by Strachan, which it joins on the summit of the Grampians. The parish extends along the south side of the Grampians, and on the north side of the valley of Strathmore, or rather of that division of it familiarly known by the name of the “*How o’ the Mearns*,” which comprehends the parishes of Fettercairn, Marykirk, Laurencekirk, and Fordoun.

The mean length of the “*How o’ the Mearns*,” from the North Esk at Dalladies to the Bervie at Mondynes, may be nearly 12 miles; the breadth, from the top of the Hill of Garvock to the summit of the Grampians, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles,—the extent of the “*How*” being thus about 90 square miles. The distance from the centre of the parish, or rather from the church of Fordoun, to Stonehaven, the county town, is about eleven miles; to Bervie, ten; and to Montrose, fifteen. The disposable produce is carried to one or other of these places, to all of which there is easy access by excellent roads.

Topographical Appearances.—The general slope of the parish is towards the south-east, and the aspect is agreeably diversified by a succession of hill and dale. It is divided into two districts, viz. the *How district*, comprehending the level part lying in the bottom of the valley of Strathmore, and the *Brae district*, lying on the south side of the Grampians. This last district is subdivided by the streams which take their rise in the Grampians, and by the small glens or valleys formed by these streams, into three or four smaller districts, such as the *Brae of Glenfarquhar*, *Kinkell*, and *Mondynes*, the *Brae of Craigniston*, and the well-known *Brae of Fordoun*. Several of these glens or valleys, having their sides more or less covered by plantations, give a rich and pleasing appearance to the parish. On the sides of the hills, cultivation has been carried to a considerable elevation, sometimes farther than is profitable either to landlord or tenant.

From Laurencekirk or the Hill of Garvock, on the south of the valley, the parish of Fordoun, on the opposite side, presents a rich and highly cultivated appearance, rendered more pleasing by the colour of the soil, which is either a brown gravelly loam, or red

ferruginous clay; and, from the waste or uncultivated part of the parish being mostly confined to the summits of the mountains, the appearance of the How, as well as the sloping grounds along the sides of the hills, is one unbroken extent of rich cultivation. This is still farther improved by the neat appearance of the farm-steadings, which are, for the most part, substantially built of stone and lime, slated, and white-washed. The plantations on Hunter's Hill, Strathfinella, and the enclosures of Kincardine, Phesdo, and Monboddo, enrich and shelter the lower part of the parish. In a beautiful glen, on the east end of Strathfinella, and on the top of a precipitous bank overhanging the Luther, stand the church, manse, and village inn of Fordoun; and on the other side of the valley, gently sloping to the south, the village of Auchinblae.* Few situations are more happily chosen than that of the church and manse of Fordoun. Embosomed among fine old trees, with Strathfinella hill on the right, and the Grampians in the distance, and overlooking the Luther meandering down the narrow but beautiful valley, the sides of which are richly covered with wood, it forms a scene of picturesque beauty, which all must admire. This valley is said to have formed the scene so feelingly described in Dr Beattie's poem, *Retirement*.

Mountains.—The principal mountains are the range of Grampians, which form the north boundary of the parish. These mountains are tame in the outline, and do not here attain the elevation they do towards the west coast of Scotland,—the average height of the ridge not exceeding 1400 or 1500 feet. There are two subordinate ridges or spurs, which project out from the main ridge nearly at right angles, viz. the Knock Hill behind Kinkell and Mondynes, and the Hill of Arnbarrow, and its more southerly termination of Hunter's Hill. The hill of Strathfinella is, however, by far the most prominent feature in the parish. It is one entire mass of sandstone, and is perfectly isolated, being separated from the Grampians by the narrow valley of Strathfinella, in some places scarcely 100 yards wide; its extreme length or base is about four miles, its breadth about a mile and a quarter. The outline is tame and unbroken, and its elevation above the sea does not exceed 1000 or 1200 feet, the height above the How being perhaps 700 or 800, while the How or bottom of the valley of Strathmore is here, upon an average, not more than 260 above high water mark.

Meteorology.—The temperature of Fordoun is perhaps higher than that of any parish in the county, with the exception of Mary-

* A Gaelic name, signifying the field of flowers or of blossoms.—Note by Dr Leslie.

kirk and Fettercairn, and certainly of Upper Banchory; but, as no correct register has been kept of the range of either the barometer or thermometer, it is impossible to institute a comparison between the temperature of the parish and that of any other in the county or in Scotland.* It is the general belief, that the winters are more mild, in this part of Scotland at least, than formerly. Since the severe winter of 1822-23, and pretty heavy falls of snow, which kept the ground for a few weeks in 1827, and 1829-30, snow has scarcely, at any one time, fallen to the depth of two inches; and for several winters, scarcely so much has fallen as to whiten the ground. On the other hand, the spring months are colder than tradition reports them to have formerly been. The autumn months, in this part of the island, are invariably fine; and perhaps no months in the year yield so much enjoyment out of doors as September and October. The temperature is now more equable, during the whole season, than formerly, the winter less severe and protracted, the summer less sultry, and the spring more tardy and gradual in its approach. This may partly be accounted for by the general drainage which has taken place over the whole island, and by the judicious disposition of the plantations, which, instead of forming, as on the continent, immense forests, here only serve the purposes of ornament and shelter, without preventing the free circulation of air, or the gradual evaporation which takes place in an open and dry country.

The climate may be described as dry; and, towards the upper part of the parish, it is no doubt cold, particularly in the spring months, but it is highly favourable to health and longevity. About fifty years ago, before the marshy grounds were drained, the lower part of the parish was subject to hoar frosts and mildews, which, occurring during the month of August, when the corn was in a milky state, often blighted the most promising crops, and blasted the hopes and prospects of the farmer. At this period, the dry gravelly soils, lying at a considerable elevation above the How,

* The lowest point at which the present incumbent ever saw Fahrenheit's thermometer, which is placed on the outside of a window, shaded completely from the sun, and exposed to the north, was on January 22d 1820, when it fell to 7°, or 25° below the freezing point, about 8 A. M. that morning, and continued so for nearly two hours. The air out of doors was calm, but excessively keen and piercing. There was a white frost on the ground in the morning, and the barometer stood at 29½.

December 26, 1830. The thermometer stood at 12° at 9 A. M. About noon it rose to 18°; and before 10 P. M. it was 30°. The thaw that night was most rapid.

The highest point that the thermometer was observed to reach at the Manse of Ffordoun, was one very hot day in July, betwixt 1807 and 1810, the year cannot now be exactly recollected. The thermometer in the shade was 84° about 2 P. M.; in the open air it rose to above 90°.—Notes by Dr Leslie.

were the object of the farmer's ambition, being safe from the fogs and hoar-frost which infested the lower grounds; and the harvests being generally early and always safe, the grain from the Brae of Fordoun was in constant demand for seed-corn, and generally fetched a high price; thus, what produced bankruptcy and ruin to the *How* farmer, at that period, brought wealth and independence to *him* of the *Braes*. Times are altered. Draining is now understood, and has been so successfully practised, that not a bog, loch, or swamp, remains in the parish. Deep strong clays are in demand; their value is understood; and, by the judicious application of lime and other manures, their powers of production are completely developed. At the period alluded to, agues were common, but such a disease is now scarcely known. There cannot be said to be any prevailing distempers.

Table, showing the number of deaths in the parish of Fordoun for the last seven years:

	Under 5 years.	From 5 to 10.	From 10 to 20.	From 20 to 30.	From 30 to 40.	From 40 to 50.	From 50 to 60.	From 60 to 70.	From 70 to 80.	From 80 to 90.	From 90 to 100.	Total.
1828,	8	2	3	4	6	2	4	4	11	4	none	48
1829,	5	1	2	6	1	1	none	2	7	5	1	31
1830,	5	none	4	4	2	2	2	2	8	5	none	34
1831,	6	1	4	2	2	1	1	5	6	11	1	40
1832,	3	none	4	3	4	3	3	3	6	7	none	36
1833,	6	none	1	2	none	2	1	5	11	7	1	36
1834,	1	1	2	4	1	none	2	6	10	3	3	33
	34	5	20	25	16	11	13	27	59	42	6	258

Of the 258 persons who have died in the parish during the last seven years, 107 were of the age of 70 or above it, and more than half of the whole number was 60 or above that age. One woman, who died in 1834, was married fifty-five years. Her husband and all her family, four in number, are still alive. One of the persons who died in 1834 was 98, another 93, and the third 92 years of age.

Rivers.—Two or three small streams take their rise in the Grampian district. The most westerly of these is the burn of Craigniston, which forms, for some distance, the west boundary of the parish, and divides it from Fettercairn. It is a mere rivulet, and can be stept across at any point before it leaves the parish. The next stream to the eastward is the Ferdun. This stream or rivulet rises in the Grampians, and is formed by two small burns that unite at Clattering Briggs. After running along the west side of Strathfinella hill, it continues in a southerly direction, until it falls into the Luther below Thornton. Luther Water takes its rise

on the hills behind Drumtochty. It runs through the bold and romantic grounds on the west and south of Drumtochty Castle, and at Auchinblae receives a small stream from the hills of Glenfarquhar. From this it takes a south-easterly direction, passing along the base of the beautifully wooded banks at the manse of Fordoun. At Fordoun House it turns in a south-westerly direction, and ultimately enters the parish of Laurencekirk below Pittarrow. The Bervie water also rises in the hills of Glenfarquhar, in this parish. For a considerable distance, it runs in a south-easterly direction, until it passes Glenbervie House, winding round the Knock hill; it afterwards takes a south-west course to Leithfield; from thence it runs in a south-east direction through the grounds and plantations of Arbuthnott House, and falls into the sea at Bervie. None of these streams are of great size; they are consequently of little value as fishing streams. The Luther is thought to afford good sport for the angler, but the trouts are small, seldom exceeding six or eight inches in length. Salmon are occasionally got in the Bervie, but it can only be considered as a trouting stream. Both these streams, with the tributary burns, afford, however, excellent spawning-ground for the salmon, which are often found as far up as the very base of the Grampians.

Geology and Mineralogy. *—The geology of this parish may illustrate that of many similarly situated along the southern declivity of the Grampian range. It embraces two parts, a mountainous and a level portion; the former extends to the summit of the chain, which it skirts for a considerable distance; the latter forms a share of what is called the 'How' or valley 'of the Mearns,' a remarkably level tract, extending for many miles in a direction pretty nearly north-east and south-west. This how or valley is to be considered rather as formed by contiguous parallel ranges of hills (the Grampians and the low range of Garvock extended into Forfarshire, and forming the valley of Strathmore by their continuation in the Sidlaw range,) than as an immediate effect, either of elevating or excavating agency. Accordingly, we find the strata nearly horizontal, and, where exposed, but little disturbed. These strata are of new red sandstone, and remarkably follow the southern base of the Grampian chain throughout a great part of its length, conducing to the formation of some highly picturesque scenery. The upper strata are thin, soft, and much variegated by white spots; the lower ones, which

* Geological Notice by Professor Forbes of Edinburgh.

rise towards the Grampians, assume the conglomerate character, and contain pebbles from the older rocks of great variety of size. This conglomerate, the trap dikes which occur in it, and the manner in which it reposes on the transition series, have been minutely described by Colonel Imrie in the section of Glenesk, a few miles west of the parish of Fordoun, and which is published in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.* A general similarity of character is observable at different points of the chain, but the section in Fordoun parish is less detailed, whilst at the same time it offers some peculiarities. The most ample view is obtained in the course of the Ferdun Burn, which passes the House of Phesdo. We are first struck by the rapid rise of the sandstone strata, for which, however, we soon find an adequate cause in the appearance of a very remarkable trap dike, which has obviously had a most material share in this effect, and which leaves us in some doubt as to how far the elevation of the great range was concerned in it. It is a remarkable fact, that in the section here described, the sandstone strata are actually *thrown back*, or dip to the north, in consequence of this intrusive rock. Nor does the cause seem merely local. There is perhaps not much doubt that this is the same mass which appears in Colonel Imrie's section through the grounds of the *Burn*. The mineralogical character is similar; and we have succeeded in tracing the particular dike in question, for a very considerable distance on each side of the Ferdun Burn, just above the ancient British fortress called the *Green Castle*, where it was first noticed. To the westward, it may be recognized in the bed of the Craigniston burn, a little above the farm of Bogindollo;—to the eastward, it is exposed in a ravine in the side of the hill of Strathfinella, where it plunges under an immense bed of gravel. By a careful search we have, however, detected it, not far from the church of Fordoun (several miles to the eastward), close to the road leading to the mansion of Drumtochty. One circumstance which renders it more easily discoverable is a remarkable one. The sandstone in its vicinity is so much hardened as to improve it greatly as a building-stone, consequently it is quarried at several points along the line of trap. Indeed, we find the sandstone modified within a few feet from a loose bed (not deserving the name of rock) to a quartzy consistence. The trap is a well-characterized greenstone, containing amethyst; and its manner of insinuation between the sandstone strata, sometimes giving the appearance of interstratifica-

* Vol. vi. p. 3.

tion, is exceedingly curious, but could not be explained without figures. The sandstone below the trap (or nearer the axis of the chain) soon disappears, and we find another remarkable trap formation, probably connected with the transition rocks which immediately succeed it, and which perhaps finds its counterpart in the claystone porphyry of Colonel Imrie. It is a dark purple felspar-rock, and has the remarkable appearance of a conglomerate, without being so, properly speaking; for we find invariably, that the apparent pebbles are composed of the same material with the basis or ground in which they are contained. Immediately succeeding this rock, we find transition clay-slate of various shades, from purple to green, and containing a bed of limestone, which, from the rarity of that mineral in this county, has been worked under great disadvantages on the Fettercairn property at Clattering Briggs. Of this bed we also find the counterpart in Colonel Imrie's section, a little above the jasper rocks, which latter are, however, almost, if not entirely, wanting in this more eastern part of the chain. It is, in all probability, the same limestone bed which occurs behind the Mains of Drumtochty. At Clattering-Briggs the ravine divides into two, and to get a complete view we should examine both. We first find the clay-slate, which contains the limestone, intersected by several dikes of highly crystalline red felspar. The slate afterwards passes into something like chlorite-slate, or what Colonel Imrie has called, 'primitive aggregate rock,' and finally into mica-slate. One of the felspar beds in this part of the section is interesting, as containing red jasper in dots, which may possibly have somewhat of a common origin with that so beautifully exposed in Glenesk. The left hand ravine carries us towards the Cairn-o'-Mount;* and in its course, these beds are well exposed; but to perceive the structure of the higher part of the chain, we should follow the right hand rivulet, which descends from the summit of the ridge (mica-slate) by a ravine of considerable depth, though little conspicuous at a distance, called the *Slack of Birnie*. This gives us a full view of extensive formations of red felspar connected with the slate, and an explanation of the origin of the vast quantities of this rock distributed in boulders over the low country.

In the eastern part of the parish, the slope of the range is less considerable, and the sandstone is more extended. Hence there

* The height above the mean level of the sea, determined by methods partly geometrical, and partly barometrical, by the author of this notice, is 1514 feet. The height of Garvoch, 1003 feet, and of the valley of Kincardine, near Fettercairn, 270 feet.

are fewer sections, nor, so far as we know, do they present much of novelty. In this portion of the range, the geographical direction of the hills does exactly correspond with its mineral character, the strata having a more northerly direction than the line of elevation. The thickness of the strata is (as has already been hinted at) considerably variable. At the Church and Braes of Fordoun, the height of the sandstone is greater, though the strata remain nearly horizontal.

Alluvial Deposits.—The alluvial deposits are not extensive, neither do they materially affect the original nature of the soil; these deposits are chiefly on Mains of Fordoun and Pittarrow, and on the low grounds below Kincardine, which may rather be distinguished as clay loams than alluvial or haugh-land. A considerable extent of pure gravel, occasionally interspersed with patches of clay loam, occurs on the farm of Castleton of Kincardine, where it would appear the Ferdun, a rapid mountain stream, has not only carried off the clay, depositing it lower down in the *How*, but brought down and lodged vast quantities of stones and pure gravel, of which this part of Castleton is composed, in place of the original soil, carried to a lower level.

Many deposits of gravel have been formed by the different mountain torrents, which serve the purposes of building, and for repairing the public roads; a very fine bank of gravel lies to the south of the manse, on the side of the public road, on the east end of Strathfinella hill. Many others of a similar description might, if necessary, be pointed out.

The whole summit of the Grampian ridge is covered with peat moss of different depths, but almost invariably adapted for fuel. There are now no mosses in the lower part of the parish, these, (which were never of great extent) as well as the bogs and swamps, having been converted into arable land.

Soils.—The soil is highly favourable for agricultural purposes; in the lower or *How* district, it is composed of a ferruginous clay, of moderate fertility, but seldom so tenacious as to render it unfit for the cultivation of turnip and other green crops. A deep rich loam runs along the base of the hills, from one extremity of the parish to the other, and the rising grounds are uniformly a brown gravelly loam, well adapted for the grass and turnip husbandry, which is invariably followed. Some detached portions on the borders of the larger farms, consist of a black moorish soil, on a cold clay subsoil, and towards the hills of Glenfarquhar the land is either

of a pale yellowish colour, or black moorish soil, often on a retentive bottom.

Zoology.—The different varieties of birds are not so numerous as in the south of Scotland; but Fordoun certainly is frequented by as many as any other parish in the county. In the hills are grouse, and occasionally, but seldom, black game; lower down, the woodcock is often to be met with. The snipe, plover, teal, and wild duck are common; but, from the want of lakes and marshes, these are not so plentiful as formerly. Hawks and kites are abundant, as also the raven, and carrion or hooded crow; the common rook in myriads. Numbers of wood pigeons infest the district, and in winter do much injury to the turnip crops. The common owl and bat are frequently seen in the evenings. The magpie is common; the jack-daw and jay less so. The thrush, blackbird, chaffinch, lark, linnet, bunting lark, with the robin and wren, form the principal birds of song; the goldfinch and bullfinch being by no means plentiful. The stone and whin-chat are also to be found in the parish. The missel-thrush, fieldfare, snow-flake, and snow-bunting appear in winter; the swift, swallow, martin, lapwing, land-rail, and cuckoo, are the summer birds of passage; the heron frequents the burns, and numbers of gulls may be seen at all times, particularly during the seed time. Pheasants were introduced some years ago. They are not plentiful, but are still visible at Drumtochty, and occasionally in other parts of the parish. Partridges are abundant everywhere.

Sometimes in summer, a stray roebuck may be observed on its passage from the sea to the highlands. The alpine or white hare is occasionally to be met with on the Grampians; the common hare is abundant, and rabbits far too much so. Rabbits were introduced into the county about twenty years ago, and now cause more destruction to the crops than all other descriptions of game in the county. To extinguish them seems hopeless, and the calls for compensation by the tenantry for the injury caused by them are neither infrequent nor unjust. The fox still subsists by rapine, but his prey is rather rabbits than poultry,—the hen roosts being now far too well secured to be entered by stealth as formerly. The otter is seen, though but rarely, stealing along the banks of a stagnant pool; and the polecat is known rather from his depredations than by ocular demonstration. The hedgehog and weasel are occasionally met with, but the badger is supposed

extinct. Moles are kept under by one or two active and well-employed mole-catchers.

Owing to the smallness of the rivers, they are only frequented by the trout usually found in similar streams. As mentioned before, the trouts are of no great size, never exceeding a few inches in length, and seldom a pound in weight. A stray salmon or sea-trout is occasionally got in the Bervie; but trout is the general pursuit of the angler.

*Botany.**—“Among the native vegetable productions, nothing has been met with having great claim to notice, except *Linnæa borealis*, which was found in 1834 in this parish.† This plant, indeed, was first discovered to be a native of Britain at Inghismaldie, in a neighbouring parish, and though the progress of observation has proved it to be more common, particularly in the northern counties, than was at one time supposed, botanists continue to attach no slight interest to the two-flowered Linnæa. Most of the other species are of the most ordinary description, so that none of them deserve to be ranked among plants which are in any degree rare or curious, except perhaps the few that follow: *Cardamine impatiens*, narrow-leaved cardamine; *Circeæ alpina*, mountain enchant-er's nightshade; *Rubus chamæmorus*, cloud-berry; *Trientalis Europæa*, European chick-weed winter-green; *Pyrola rotundi-folia*, round-leaved winter-green; *Pyrola minor*, lesser winter-green; *Arbutus uva-ursi*, bear-berry; *Vaccinium vitis-Idæa*, cran-berry; *Hypericum pulchrum*, small St John's wort; and *Parnassia palustris*, grass of Parnassus. It ought, however, to be added, that it is probable Fordoun possesses botanical treasures of greater value, as the native plants of the parish have never, as far as is known, been examined with adequate attention.”

Plantations.—There are no forests or indeed plantations exceeding the age of seventy years. The oldest plantations are perhaps the wood of Drumsleed, and the remains of the Garret or Garrold wood, on the north flank of Strathfinella hill, opposite Drumtochty Castle. These consist chiefly of Scotch fir and larch, with a few deciduous trees where the soil is favourable. There is some natural birch and oak coppice-wood behind Drumtochty Castle, and in the ravines west of it; but, with these exceptions, the whole plantations in the parish have been planted within the last sixty years. A few old trees still exist in the old village or rather coun-

* Notice on Botany by Dr Murray of Aberdeen.

† By Mr David Johnston, Student of Medicine.

ty town of Kincardine. Several respectable trees also ornament the old houses of Monboddo and Castleton, and in the plantations of Drumtochty, trees, venerable for their age and size, tower far above the saplings around them. There are likewise a few fine beeches at Phesdo; and a considerable quantity of full-grown ash, birch, elm, &c. shelter and adorn the church, parsonage, and village inn at Fordoun. During the last fifty years, a considerable part of the Kincardine estate, belonging to Sir John Stuart Forbes, Bart., has been enclosed, and many belts and plantations formed for ornament and shelter. At Phesdo, much was done by the late lamented and spirited proprietor, in planting and adorning his property. Many plantations of larch and Scotch fir were formed by the Carnegies, late proprietors of Pittarrow, which shelter and relieve the tameness of the surface in that part of the parish. Belts of larch and Scotch fir, with deciduous trees intermixed, were also planted by the late Mrs Burnett of Monboddo, and there are likewise some plantations, although of no great extent, around the house of Castleton. Mr Drummond, while proprietor of Drumtochty, planted extensively both with resinous and deciduous plants, and the whole are in the most thriving state imaginable. Lord Arbuthnott has lately planted about 200 acres of the front of Strathfinella hill, and proposes extending his operations so as to cover the whole front of the hill. There is thus a considerable extent of woodland in the parish; still, from its being disposed in masses, and from the want of hedges, and particularly of hedge-rows, the landscape has not that rich and wooded appearance, which a more judicious disposition of the plantations would have produced. It may, under this head, be remarked, that both soil and climate are favourable to all kinds of forest trees. Oak, which formerly was rather a reluctant grower, now takes freely, and all other kinds of deciduous trees, when judiciously planted, make a fair progress. Scots firs thrive well, but larches, although rapid growers, are observed to be short-lived, and to decay soon. It is, likewise, observed that forest trees of all descriptions thrive better with a north or north-west aspect, than with a south exposure. This is very perceptible in the glen behind Strathfinella hill, and in other situations, and is perhaps owing to the soil on the north side of the hills being generally deeper, and the plants being protected from the sharp sea-breezes that come from the south-east quarters.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Some notices regarding the history and antiquities of Fordoun may be found in the Transactions of the Society of Scottish Antiquaries, in Lord Hailes' Annals of Scotland, in the Beauties of Scotland, in Chalmers's Caledonia, in Robertson's agricultural survey of the county of Kincardine, and in Chalmers' Gazetteer of Scotland; but the most detailed account of the parish is the former Statistical Report, drawn up by the late Rev. Alexander Leslie, father of the present incumbent.

*Traditions.**—“The most remarkable are those connected with the residence of King Kenneth III. at Kincardine Castle, in this parish; his murder, and the death of Finella. It is agreed upon by almost all the Scotch historians, that Kenneth was murdered by Finella, at or near to Kincardine Castle. The most probable account is, that the King having put to death Finella's son, who had been engaged in an insurrection against him, his mother, Finella, who was of the royal family, and who is still spoken of in the Mearns as a Queen, vowed vengeance against Kenneth. Her castle † or residence, the site of which is still pointed out, lay near to the royal palace of Kincardine, and on the south end of the hill which is still known by her name. Near to the palace, and consequently near to her residence, was a large park or forest, the enclosures of which can still be traced in many places, and which even now, at this distance of time, goes by the name of the King's Deer or Hunting-Park. During the residence of Kenneth at Kincardine, who had come there on his pilgrimage to the chapel of St Palladius, he is said to have gone one day to hunt in this park or forest, and that Finella, having got the opportunity she so much wished for, caused two assassins to way-lay and murder him. She knew that suspicion would fall upon her, and attempted thereupon to make her escape through a forest which lay betwixt her house and the sea, to some place of safety on the coast; but she was overtaken near to the coast, in a place called ever since Denfinella, where she was put to death. In corroboration of the above account of the murder of Kenneth, it may be mentioned that there was discovered under the pulpit of the old church of Fordoun, a large piece of freestone, 5 feet 1 inch in length, by 2 feet 11 inches in width. On this stone are represented three figures on horseback, placed in a line, one behind the other, and each arm-

* Notice by Dr Leslie.

† Green Castle, or Finella's Castle.

ed with a spear. The dress and the horses of the first and third mark them to be of inferior rank. The one in the middle is placed in a separate square, his horse is covered with a cloth, and his dress far superior to that of the others. At his feet, lies what may be considered as a sceptre, or at any rate an ornamented spear. Towards one side of the stone is the figure of a hound, and at the other that of a boar, an animal said to have abounded at that time in the Scotch forests. Now, connecting this stone and the figures with the traditions respecting the murder of Kenneth, it is surely not improbable that it was intended to commemorate that event. It was natural to place such a commemorative stone in St Palladius' Chapel, the place to which Kenneth had either lately made, or was about to make a pilgrimage, when he was assassinated; and when the chapel was about to be stript of its furniture at the time of the Reformation, it was not improbable that it was then pushed under the pulpit of the church for preseryation. In the chapel there still remains a hollow stone in the wall, which probably held the holy-water; the niche within which the statue of St Palladius was placed, and before which incense was burned, and a square place in the wall near to it, which probably enclosed the silver shrine with the supposed relics of the saint. In Vol. ii., Part 2, of the Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, there is a particular account of the stone above alluded to, drawn up by the late Professor Stuart of Marischal College, Aberdeen, who was well acquainted with the antiquities of the north of Scotland; and a most accurate drawing of the stone taken by the Rev. Mr Spencer, schoolmaster, Forcoun. The monks, who had the charge of the chapel, had probably been buried in it, as lately, when opening up a part of the floor, it was found to be filled with bones placed under regular arches. There is, besides, a vault at some depth under ground."

Maps.—A most accurate delineation of this parish is contained in a map of the county, made from actual survey, by the late Mr Garden, in 1774, on which are exhibited not only the natural features of the county, the position and direction of roads, rivers, and the boundaries of parishes, but with the most minute detail, the outline of the different estates and commons, and likewise the extent of the arable, pasture, and wood land. It is by far the most accurate and best executed county map yet published. Most, if not all the estates have been more recently surveyed and mapped, to which reference has been made in drawing up this Report.

* “ When the old mansion-house of Pittarrow was pulled down in 1802, there were discovered on the plaster of the great hall, to which access was had by a flight of steps, some paintings in a state of high preservation, the walls having been wainscotted, at what period is not known. The air and dust having thus been excluded, the colours in the paintings were as vivid as if they had been done only a year before. The only one of the paintings that may be noticed here, was that which represented the city of Rome, and a grand procession going to St Peter’s. The Pope, adorned with the tiara, in his full robes of state, and mounted on a horse or mule, led by some person of distinction, was attended by a large company of cardinals, all richly dressed, and all uncovered. At a little distance, near to where the procession was to pass, and nearly in front of it, stood a white palfrey, finely caparisoned, held by some person, also dressed and uncovered. Beyond this was the magnificent Cathedral of St Peter, the doors of which seemed to be open to receive the procession. Below the picture was written the following lines :—

“ In Papam
 Laus tua, non tua fraus : virtus non gloria rerum,
 Scandere te fecit hoc decus eximium ;
 Pauperibus sua dat gratis, nec munera curat
 Curia Papalis, quod more percipimus.
 Hæc carmina potius legenda caneros imitando.”

The then proprietor of Pittarrow was totally ignorant of these paintings, when he gave orders to pull down the house.”

“ *Eminent Characters.*—John of Fordoun, the historian, was either a native of the parish, or resided in it when he wrote his history of Scotland. He is called by Bede ‘ venerabilis vir Dominus Joannes Fordun, Presbyter.’ Although the biographical dictionaries give very little information about him, yet it is generally believed that he was a priest in the church of Fordoun in 1377, because he dedicated his history to Cardinal Wardlaw, who at that time was Archbishop of Glasgow. The time of his death is unknown. There are MS. Latin copies of his history in the Bodleian Library, in the British Museum, and in the Advocates’ Library, Edinburgh. It is said that all the convents in Scotland, and some in England, had transcribed copies of it, in such high estimation was it held.

“ That eminent martyr, George Wishart, one of the early reformers in Scotland, and who was barbarously burned at the stake,

* Notices by Dr Leslie.

by Cardinal Beaton, on the 1st of March 1546, was a younger son of Wishart of Pittarrow. The Wisharts were an ancient and respectable family in the parish of Fordoun in 1399; how much earlier is not known, and they possessed that property till after the commencement of the last century. It is unnecessary to give any detail of George Wishart's life, opinions, steady and exemplary faith, and heroic Christian patience under the cruel sufferings and barbarous death so shamefully inflicted on him, as all these are fully detailed in the histories of that period; but it may be observed, that his example was not lost on his own family, for they appear to have, soon after, thrown off the yoke of the Church of Rome, and embraced the doctrines of the glorious Reformation.

“ The Honourable James Burnett, Lord Monboddo, one of the Judges in the Court of Session, was a native of and a proprietor in the parish of Fordoun, and one of the first who turned his attention to the modern improvements in agriculture. He went hand in hand with Mr Barclay of Ury in this important work, and by his example, his perseverance, his unwearied exhortations and advices to the farmers around him, and the attention he paid them, he soon made a great change on his own farm and estate, and on the farms and estates around him. As an affectionate husband and father, as a liberal and encouraging landlord, as a warm and steady friend to the British Constitution, as an able and faithful judge, and a man of science, as an excellent classical scholar, as a grammarian, and intimately acquainted with the literature and philosophy of Greece and Rome, he was not excelled by any in the last age. His work on the Origin and Progress of Language, (the first volume of which was published in 1771, the second in 1773, and the third in 1776,) has placed him high in the rank of the eminent literati of the last century. He was born in 1714, married in 1760, was deprived of his lady by death in 1766, was raised to the Bench in 1767, and died in 1799. His beautiful and accomplished daughter, Miss Eliza Burnett, the constant nurse and companion of her parent, whose sweetness of manners, benevolence of heart, excellent principles, and religious feelings, justly gained her universal admiration, died of a consumption at the age of twenty-five. Her affectionate parent, whose life was bound up in her's, rapidly declined after her death; and he often declared that nothing but those glorious hopes of immortal life through Christ, which the Gospel sets before us, could have supported him under the heavy stroke.”

“ Dr Beattie was for several years schoolmaster at Fordoun, before he removed to Aberdeen. At Fordoun, many of his smaller poems were composed. See an excellent life of Dr Beattie, drawn up by the late highly distinguished and most benevolent Sir William Forbes, Bart. of Pitsligo.”

Professor Beattie, born at Fordoun 16th April 1767, son of David Beattie, elder brother of Dr James Beattie, author of the *Minstrel*,—was educated at the school of Laurencekirk, and entered Marischal College, Aberdeen, November 1780, and became A. M. in April 1784. He studied theology till 1787–8, when he taught the classical department of the second class in Marischal College, as assistant to Dr George Skene; and was appointed Professor of Civil and Natural History in that College, and inducted 22d October 1788. Professor Beattie taught twenty-one sessions with great applause, and was a most effective and enthusiastic teacher, to whom good pupils were greatly attached. He died on Thursday 4th October 1810. A monument was erected to his memory, in 1813, by a subscription among his pupils.

Alexander Crombie, Esq. of Phesdo, one of the eminent characters of whom this parish can boast, is mentioned particularly afterwards.

Land-owners.—The land-owners or proprietors in this parish are, The Earl of Kintore; Viscount Arbuthnott; Sir John Stuart Forbes of Pitsligo and Fettercairn, Baronet; *Dr Crombie of Phesdo; Mr Burnett of Monboddo; Mr Mitchell Nicolson of Glenbervie; Mr Gammel of Drumtochty; Mr Forbes of Castleton; Mr Carnegie of Redhall; Mr Arnott of Leithfield; and Mr Kinloch of Kair. The feuars of Auchinblae hold of Lord Kintore and Mr Burnett of Monboddo.

Parochial Registers.—The earliest entry in the baptism register is dated June 4, 1693; in the session-register, September 9, 1747. The parish registers have been regularly kept since then.

Antiquities. †—“ On the farm of Castleton of Kincardine, belonging to Sir John Stuart Forbes of Pitsligo and Fettercairn, Bart., stand the ruins of the Castle or Royal Palace of Kincardine. This castle either gave its name to the county, or took its name from the county in which it is placed. There are no records stating the period when this castle was built, or when it was last occupied. It was a royal palace previous to the death of

* Author of *Gymnasium*, *Natural Theology*, &c. † Notice by Dr Leslie.

Kenneth III. in 994, for it was occupied by that monarch at the time of his murder by Finella. This palace or castle seems to have been a place of considerable strength. A morass surrounded it, a great part of which has been drained within the last thirty years. It stands on the termination of a small ridge, at an elevation of about sixty or eighty feet above the adjoining meadows, and has a very commanding view of the most beautiful part of the How o' the Mearns. It appears to have been of a quadrangular shape, of which little now remains except the foundations of some walls, built with all the solidity common in former ages. It was in Kincardine Palace, as Lord Hailes says, (Note, Vol. i. of his Annals, page 293, 3d edition,) that John Baliol resigned his crown to Edward I. of England, July 2, 1296; and he quotes the record of this in Rhymer's *Fœdera*, Tom. ii. page 718. As this is the last event of importance on record connected with the history of this palace, it is not improbable that it was destroyed in the wars betwixt the Scotch and English which followed that event. The village of Kincardine, now diminished to a few houses, once extended from the ground at the foot of the castle to near Fettercairn House. It was the county town, and the residence of the sheriff, who held his court there until the reign of James VI., when it was removed to Stonehaven. The village had its chapel, and its burying-ground near the chapel, its west-port, and its east-port, and its cross, the site of which is still marked near to where the chapel stood. The cross was removed to the market-place of Fettercairn about a century ago. The names of the fields contiguous to the castle or palace still retain an allusion to a royal residence. One park is called "The King's Park," in which, sometime ago, a falcon's head was found. Another, as tradition says, was called "The Chancellor's Park;" and a large tract of ground, extending from near the castle to the Grampians, and part of the enclosures of which is still visible from the road which leads to the top of the Cairn o' Mount, is known by the name of 'The Royal,' or 'King's Deer,' or 'Hunting-Park,' and probably was the park in which Kenneth was assassinated. Opposite to the Castle of Kincardine, and at the distance of a few hundred yards only from it, is the farm of 'Gallowhill,' commonly called 'Gallowhill Stone,' from a large stone which is said to mark the place where criminals were executed. A road lay from the castle across the morass to this place; and in enlarging the roads through that farm, several stone chests have been found, of coarse

workmanship, but containing the skeletons of bodies laid out at full length, and the bones untouched."

On the opposite side of the valley, on the west flank of Strathfinella Hill, near the Mill of Kincardine, and overlooking the Ferdun, stands (as tradition reports) Finella Castle or Green Castle, which gave name to the hill, on the slope of which it is situated. It is placed on the top of the east bank of the Ferdun. Above the average height of this brae or bank, and on a distinct platform of mould earth, a circular basin is raised to the height of 30 or 40 feet, being in all 80 or 100 feet above the river. The interior of the castle forms an enclosure of perhaps nearly one-fourth of an acre in extent; and is surrounded by a green mound, of from 20 to 25 feet in height: the opening is towards the north-east.*

† "Near Fordoun House is part of a camp or Roman station; it is about 90 yards long by 50 wide. Of this camp nothing now remains except the *prætorium*; but in the younger days of the present clergyman, he found old people who could trace to him a considerable part of the outlines of the camp, which were most extensive, and had been defended by triangular forts, at the different corners, by outposts, and by a deep morass at the lower extremity. It was capable of containing a large army. These outworks have now been levelled, and the morass has been turned into a dry and very productive field. In trenching that morass, the heads of several Roman spears were found, one of which is now in the possession of John Carnegie, Esq. Redhall. A gold ring, similar to what we are told the Roman knights wore, was also found; and a number of bones have been dug up in various places near and at a greater distance from the camp. Part of these were enclosed in rough unhewn stone chests, and fell to dust when they were exposed to the air,—part of them buried under cairns, and severals were laid in the open fields, and were accidentally turned up by the plough. In those urns which were found entire, there were generally a considerable quantity of calcined or half-burnt bones. The urns themselves were of clay, of very rough

* From the circular shape of this artificial mound and its material, it has been doubted whether it ever was a residence, as here stated, but rather one of those Pictish or British forts, commonly called *rings*, and found in similar situations in other parts of Scotland. To accommodate this theory to our historical accounts, a probable site may be found for Finella's Castle in the remains of a vitrified structure near Balbegno, in the adjoining parish.

† Notice by Dr Leslie.

manufacture, but retaining the marks of the strings with which they had been bound round, probably when forming. *

“ In a retired glen, called Friars Glen, above Drumtochty, and closs to Finella hill, there are the foundations of a small friary. The lands were granted by charter to the Carmelites by James Fraser of Friendraught, 1st May 1402, and this charter was confirmed by King Robert, 12th October 1403. A more secluded and retired situation for a friary could not have been chosen. A small green hill was on one side, and a similar one on the other; the Grampians to the north and Finella hill to the south. A beautiful, clear stream of water ran past the friary, and there was room in the glen for a garden, and pasture on the hills for a few sheep. The feu-duty of this glen was made over by Earl Marischal to the Marischal College of Aberdeen, and sold within the last thirty years to the proprietor of Drumtochty.

“ On the hill above Newlands, there are the remains of what is commonly called a Druidical Temple, and a similar one in a clump of trees near Castleton, on the estate of William Forbes, Esq.

“ On the farm of Mondynes, in the east end of this parish, or Monethynes, as that farm was originally called, there is a large stone erected in a conspicuous part of a field, evidently intended to commemorate some remarkable event. This stone, in the younger days of the tenant of West Mondynes, was called the ‘ King’s stone,’ and a field, near the farm-house, is still known by the name of ‘ Duncan’s shade’ or ‘ field.’ Professor Stuart, already alluded to, has, in the above-mentioned volume of ‘ Transactions, shewn, by a number of circumstances therein stated, that that stone, in all probability, commemorates the death of King Duncan II. who is said to have been murdered by the Earl or Thane of the Mearns.

“ A few old coins of our James’s, both copper and silver, have been dug up in different places of the parish, but none of them of any value.”

Modern Buildings.—There is no mansion-house on the estate of Kincardine, the proprietor, Sir John Stuart Forbes, Bart. residing at Fettercairn House, in the adjoining parish; but much was done for the improvement of the estate by the late Sir John Stuart, Baronet, and after him by the late Sir William Forbes of

* Means have now been adopted by the noble proprietor to preserve this Roman camp from being farther encroached upon by the plough, not the least persevering of innovators.

Pitsligo, Bart. who erected a splendid mansion in the old English style, on that part of the estate situate in Fettercairn parish, in the Statistical Account of which parish it naturally falls to be noticed.

Phesdo.—This estate, with that of Pitnamoon, in this parish, and Thornton, in the parish of Marykirk, was purchased, about thirty years ago, by the late public spirited proprietor, Alexander Crombie, Esq. Advocate in Aberdeen, who employed his occasional intervals of relaxation from the pursuit of a lucrative and laborious profession, in improving and embellishing it in every way that wealth, guided by taste, could direct. Possessed of a sound judgment, a retentive memory, invariable sweetness of temper, and unwearied application to business, few have led a more useful and honourable life, or died more respected and lamented than Mr Crombie. The friend of the rich and powerful, who confided in his judgment and integrity, and were directed by his counsel, he was no less the friend of the poor and afflicted. To him the humble always had access, were invariably received with kindness, obtained assistance, advice and protection. None ever were known in anger to leave him, and few but retired happier than when they entered his presence. Hours were daily employed by him in settling differences, adjusting disputes, and in transacting gratuitously the business of those, who could not pay a fee to others for doing it. Upon completing his purchase, Mr Crombie found the only shelter to his old and ruinous mansion was a few old firs, and about a dozen of beech trees, at a considerable distance from the house. Marshes covered with rushes, and an undivided common approached within a few yards of his door. To drain, to plant, and build was his delight for the last thirty years of his life, and under his hand, not only the mansion-house and grounds around it, but the whole estate assumed a different aspect, and Phesdo is now not only one of the most elegant houses, but the grounds are among the most ornamented and best sheltered in the county. The house erected by Mr Crombie, at great expense, is a most substantial fabric. It is built of granite, brought from Aberdeen, (a distance of thirty miles,) and is a plain Grecian building, with a fluted Doric portico. It stands on a small knoll, at the base of Strathfinella Hill, surrounded by plantations, tastefully disposed, commanding a fine prospect of the Grampians on the right, and a rich and extensive view of Strathmore in front. The *approach*, garden, and offices are judiciously laid out, and complete in every respect. In addition to this, the whole of the waste land on the estate has been reclaim-

ed or planted. Many plantations and roads have been formed or improved, the burns and water-courses straightened, and the farm-houses, cottages, and steadings rebuilt or repaired, so as to be superior to most in the county.

On Pittarrow there is now no mansion-house. A fine old tower, which formed a prominent object in the "How," was pulled down a few years ago.

Fordoun House, (Viscount Arbutnott's,) is a better sort of farm-house; it is in tolerable repair, and, with a moderate outlay, might be made a pleasant residence, as the situation is most eligible. The house with the farm is let to a tenant.

Monboddo is an old house, but in tolerable repair. The situation is good, and the plantations judiciously laid out, and in a thriving state. This place derives importance, from having been the birth place and patrimonial estate of the late Lord Monboddo. His daughter, the late proprietrix, Mrs Burnett, did much in improving the estate, which now belongs to her son, who resides at Monboddo.

Castleton, William Forbes, Esq. although a mere farm-house, yet from the disposition of the garden, and a few remaining plantations, this place still retains something of the appearance of a mansion. It is occupied, along with the farm, by a tenant.

The only remaining mansion to be noticed is Drumtochty Castle, which, although the last described, is certainly the first in importance. The small property of Drumtochty formerly belonged to Mrs Mackenzie, who inhabited a snug and unpretending cottage, on the site of which the present mansion stands. Situated on a steep bank, on the north side of a narrow valley, enveloped by plantations of considerable extent, in which the graceful birch predominates, and surrounded by lofty mountains, it may be questioned if the view of the present lordly mansion ever gave half the pleasure to one possessor of sound judgment and taste, which the former humble cottage afforded. The cottage seemed just adapted for the size of the glen, and the place it occupied, and was then well known to all as the abode of worth and unpretending hospitality. The estate was purchased about thirty years ago by George Harley Drummond, Esq. of the well known banking-house in Charing Cross, who laid out vast sums on building, in planting, and enclosing the estate. Under his direction, a house was erected in the style of castellated Gothic, from designs

by Mr Gillespie Graham, architect, at an expense, it is said, of L. 30,000. Plantations were formed with much taste, skirting the glens, and covering the sides of the mountains, bogs drained, approaches made, and porter-lodges erected; walks, many miles in extent, were carried through the plantations, and the greater part of the estate substantially enclosed with stone fences and hedges. A residence was thus formed of a peculiar character. The house stands a few feet above the Luther, here a brawling stream, on a small platform, scooped out of a steep, indeed nearly a perpendicular hill, covered with wood. Below is a meadow extending along and filling the whole bottom of the glen for a couple of miles. In front, is Strath Finella Hill, (the base of which is clothed with thriving plantations,) rising to the height of 700 or 800 feet above the narrow valley. Behind the castle is a bank, which rises almost perpendicularly, and is covered with copse and full-grown trees, and beyond this, at a very little distance, are the Grampians, the sides of which, as well as the different ravines, formed by the mountain streams, are finely fringed with natural birch. The house and grounds are much visited by strangers, being, strictly speaking, the only *show* place in the parish, and, excepting the "*Burn*," in the county. The estate now belongs to Mr Gammell, who is seldom resident.

Spinning-Mill.—There is only one spinning-mill in the parish, viz. for flax, at Auchinblae. This mill was erected about forty years ago, by a much respected and public-spirited individual, the late Mr Kinnear.

The materials used for building are freestone, generally of a reddish colour, with which the parish is plentifully supplied from quarries in different parts of it. The freestone obtained is only adapted for rubble work,—most of the stones for rybats, lintels, &c. being brought from Woodston or Laurieston, on the coast-side. Drumtochty Castle is veneered or faced up, on the outside, with a beautiful blue schist, found on Dallavaird, in Glenbervie parish; but there can be little doubt but the same vein runs along the base of the Grampians through this parish.

III.—POPULATION.

A return of the population appears to have been made by Dr Webster in 1755, another by Mr Garden, when constructing his valuable map of the county in 1774, and another by the Rev. Alexander Leslie, the former incumbent, in 1791.

Table of the population from 1755 to 1831.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1755,			1890
1774,			2400
1791,	1158	1100	2258
1801,	1050	1173	2223
1811,	1197	1338	2535
1821,	1113	1262	2375
1831,	1070	1168	2238

No great increase or decrease has taken place in the population of this parish. Being, until lately, purely agricultural, any variation that occurred must have been occasioned by the enlarged size of the farms, and the decrease of the cot-towns, more particularly of Kincardine. The reduction thus caused in the agricultural population has been more than compensated by the extension or rather creation of the village of Auchinblae, the only village in the parish. But although the greater part of the inhabitants of this village are employed in trade or manufactures, still many of them occupy crofts or village acres, and may be considered as belonging to the agricultural population, which, it would thus appear, has not materially been diminished by converting the small farms into larger ones.

The only village in the parish, viz. Auchinblae, contained in

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1791,			100
1821,			404
1831,	224	263	487
In March 1834,	271	279	550
Auchinblae in 1831 contained,			487
Country parish in do.			1751

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
The average yearly number of births for the last 7 years,	30	32	62
of deaths,	18	21	39
of marriages,			19

According to the census of 1821, the average number of persons

under 15 years of age was	828
betwixt 15 and 30,	608
30 and 50,	505
50 and 70,	358
upwards of 70,	76

Two noblemen, viz. the Earl of Kintore and Viscount Arbuthnott, have estates in the parish, besides nine commoners,—thus making the proprietors of land amount to 11. The rental of each greatly exceeds L. 50 yearly. The only heritors or individuals of fortune resident are, Dr Crombie of Phesdo; Mr Burnett of Monboddoo; Mr Carnegie of Redhall; and occasionally Captain Gammell of Drumtochty. Two mansions, viz. Fordoun House and Whiteriggs, are let to farmers.

	No. of families.	Inhabited houses.	Uninhabited houses.
1801,	490	465	41
1811,	543	513	18
1821,	554	493	13
1831,	522	463	21
1834,	545	484	

The number of insane people in or belonging to the parish are 2, fatuous 6, blind 2, deaf 1. The above person is totally deaf, but can read and speak a little.

Character of the People.—The people are in general regular in their religious duties, and orderly in their conduct. They are cleanly in their persons, and dress well,—indeed, it is a common observation, made by strangers, that nowhere is a more respectable, better-looking or better dressed congregation to be seen in a country church, than in that of Fordoun. Considerable amendment has taken place in the cleanliness and economy of both farm-houses and cottages, but as to ornament there is still much room for improvement. The tenantry are a highly respectable class, and their manner of living is similar to that of the better sort of farmers in other parts of Scotland.*

Amongst the agricultural labourers, marriages are not contracted at a very early period. There is a general desire to save something to procure “providing” for the bride, and to enable the bridegroom to furnish his cottage in a tolerably comfortable manner. In endeavouring to do this, and to postpone their union until prudence should sanction it, passion sometimes gets the better of principle, and the consequences are obvious. The average number of illegitimate children, born yearly in the parish, is 4, exclusive of those who are rendered *legitimate* by the subsequent union of their parents.

The people are regular and decorous in their religious duties, and generally moral in their conduct; and although that keenness for disputation on religious subjects, so common in the west and south of Scotland, does not prevail here, still their sense of religion, and its influence in promoting our happiness here, and its necessity to our salvation hereafter, is not less sensibly felt or de-

* It is customary in this parish, and indeed in the district, to designate farmers not by their Christian names, but by the names of the farms they occupy, or contractions of them. Thus the tenant of Pitnamoon is familiarly known by the name of Pitnamoon or *Pitnie*, of Westmoston by that of *Wysie*; Odmiston, Carnbegg, Drumtochty, Drumsloed, &c. respectively by *Oddie*, *Carnie*, *Drums* and *Drummie*. The practice of designating proprietors by the names of their estates is likewise common in the northern counties of Scotland.

voutly acknowledged. Their respect and regard for their pastor is unbounded.* During the long period that the former clergyman, and, since his death, the present incumbent have been ministers of Fordoun, they have reason to be proud of the support received from all classes in the discharge of their duties, and, as a proof of their success, it may here be stated, that in 1801, there were 257 Dissenters in the parish,—at present the whole Dissenters of every description are reduced to 89, of whom only 8 are Seceders.

A marked alteration has taken place in the reading habits of the people. For the histories of Wallace and Bruce, of Robin Hood and Little John, George Buchanan, Jack the Giant-killer, Leper the Tailor, and many other worthies that formerly amused the inmates of the smithy, the cottage and farm-kitchen, books of history, travels, voyages, biography, agriculture, and, above all, books on religious subjects, are now substituted. The parish library furnishes an ample store of these, and the number of readers who apply for books, especially in the winter season, is very great.

Smuggling is now happily unknown, nor, as in some other districts, has poaching been substituted for it.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

In order to exhibit the industry of the parish of Fordoun, the following classification of the population may be adopted:—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Population of the parish of Fordoun,	1118	1220	2338
Inhabited houses,			484
Families,			545
employed in agriculture,		292	
in trade and manufactures,		135	
all other families,		118	
		—	545
Males upwards of 20 years,			606

Agriculture.

Occupiers who constantly employ and pay one or more labourers or farm-servants in husbandry,	57
Occupiers of land who employ no labourers other than of their own family,	71
Labourers in husbandry, and farm-servants employed by occupiers of the first class,	229
Manufacturers, or employed in manufacture,	55

* Their regard for their former pastor, and for his son, their present pastor, has been uniform and steady. It was deeply felt by their former pastor, and is no less gratefully and sensibly felt by the present incumbent, who has laboured among them with great comfort for many years, and who delights in his old age, to recollect and recount all their kindness and attention to him and his father.—Note by Dr Leslie.

Employed in retail trade and handicraft,	117	
Wholesale traders and capitalists, clergy, professional and other educated men,	10	
Labourers not agricultural,	24	
All other males of twenty years, viz. superannuated, diseased, &c.	43	
	<hr/>	608
All female servants,	152	

Agriculture.—Table showing the extent and disposition of lands in the parish.

	<i>Arable.</i>	<i>Wood.</i>	<i>Uncultivated ground.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Imperial acres,	11,330	2159	14,246	27,735

The undivided common land may amount to about 200 acres; of the waste land, capital could not be profitably employed, in bringing much into cultivation,—probably not more than 300 or 400 acres in the parish would pay the expense of improvement.

In forming plantations, larch, Scots fir, and spruce are generally planted, either for nurses, or for a crop; when planted as nurses, the plantation is generally filled up with oak, ash, elm, beech, birch, sycamore, &c.; little regard being paid how far the soil may be adapted to their growth. As the deciduous trees grow up, the resinous trees are thinned out to make room for them, but invariably too little attention is paid to pruning the trees intended to form the crop. The value of thinnings, and of wood cut down and sold in the parish, does not exceed L. 180 yearly.

Rent, &c.—The valued rent of Fordoun is L. 7129, 5s. 4d. Scots. The real rent, taking into account the rise that will be obtained, in two or three years, upon the expiry of some leases of fifty-seven years' duration, will not be less than L. 11,420 Sterling; but upon this rental no great increase can be anticipated for many years. A moderate deduction being made from the gross rental for the sheep pasture in the Grampians, the rent per imperial acre of the arable land will be about 19s. 6d.

Few or no cattle or sheep are taken in for grazing by the head, grass fields being usually taken for that purpose; but the maintenance of a cow is estimated to be worth L. 6, 10s. yearly, of which L. 3, 10s. may be the proportion for the summer six months. The summer grazing of an ox or bullock may be L. 2, 5s.; and for the whole year, L. 4. A full-grown sheep may be grazed for the whole year for 2s. 6d. in the Grampians; but in enclosed lands, the maintenance for the year will vary from 6s. to 10s.; but if fed

off on turnips, a greater remuneration will be expected. It is, however, difficult to state with precision the expense of grazing or maintenance of any kind of bestial, as farmers are in the practice either of rearing or purchasing the stock for their farms; and much must depend upon the way in which bestial are bought or reared, and the state of the markets when they are sold.

Wages.—The rate of labour may be as under: half-yearly servants: unmarried ploughmen from L. 6 to L. 8, 10s., with two pecks of oatmeal weekly, and an allowance of milk and potatoes, with lodging and fuel, generally in a bothie. Unmarried half-year labourers are from L. 5 to L. 6; boys from L. 1, 10s. to L. 3, with the usual allowance of meal and milk in the bothie. Married men-servants are engaged by the year. They generally get a house and garden, maintenance for a cow, and L. 8 to L. 10 of wages, with six and a-half bolls of oatmeal; they also get an allowance of potatoes or ground for raising them, with a few barrels of coals and brushwood for fuel. Women servants for farm-work, if engaged for six months, get in summer from L. 3 to L. 4, 10s., and in winter about L. 2, with victuals in the kitchen; and if engaged by the day for farm-work, 8d. in winter, and 10d. in summer, but without victuals or lodging.

Harvest work is very often let by the acre, at from 7s. to 10s. for cutting, binding, and stooking when cut by the hand; and from 5s. to 7s. when cut by the scythe; and when cut by the threave, about 3d. In none of these cases do the labourers get victuals. When shearers are engaged for the harvest, the wages for men is about L. 2, 5s.; and for women, L. 1, 15s., with victuals and beer. In addition to cutting the grain crop, they are usually bound to assist in taking up the potatoe crop.

Farm-labourers per day, in winter, 1s. 2d.; in summer, 1s. 8d.; and dykers, ditchers, hedgers, quarriers, &c. from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. according to the season of the year and the activity of the labourer.

There are few or no home manufacturers in this parish. Little linen is made, and that not for the market; neither are any coarse woollen cloths manufactured. Strong cotton cloth or Irish linen is used for shirts by the ploughman, and his jacket and trowsers consist of velvet or west of England cloth, his great-coat only being of Scotch manufacture.

The prices of raw produce may be as under: flax, of which little is raised for sale, costs per stone of 14lb. 7s.; wool, from 7s. to

9s. per stone. Wheat, per quarter, L. 2, 12s.; ~~pease~~ and beans, L. 1, 6s.; barley, L. 1, 10s.; oats, L. 1, 2s.; potatoes, per boll, 7s. to 9s., or L. 8 per acre; turnips, L. 2, 10s. to L. 4 per acre; hay, 4d. per imperial stone. Hens, 1s. to 1s. 3d.; ducks, 1s. to 1s. 3d.; chickens and ducklings, 10d. to 1s. per pair; turkies and geese, 2s. 6d. each; eggs, per dozen, 6d.; butter, per lb. 7d.; cheese, per lb. 3d. to 6d.; beef and mutton, 5d.; pork, 4d.; veal, 6d. Lime, per boll, 2s. 10d.; gray slates, per 100, 10s.; blue slates, Dunkeld, L. 2, 5s. per 1000; Eisdale, L. 2, 12s.; tiles, L. 4; stones for building, 6d. per single load; double load, 9d. 10d.

Rate of Labour and Mechanical Work.—Masons per day in summer, 2s. 6d. to 3s.; in winter, 1s. 10d.; carpenters, in summer, 2s. 3d. in winter 1s. 8d., all without victuals. Plasterers and slaters generally work by the piece. Ruble mason-work, when carriages and price of materials are included, generally costs per rood of 36 ells, from L. 6, 10s. to L. 7, 10s. When materials and carriages are afforded, the price of labour per rood is from L. 1, 10s. to L. 1, 16s., with an additional charge for hewn work, levelling the walls, &c.

A double horse cart costs from L. 10, 10s. to L. 12; a plough, L. 3 to L. 3, 10s.; and a pair of harrows, L. 1, 2s.

Live-Stock.—The horses employed in husbandry approach nearly to the Clydesdale breed, and much pains have lately been taken to improve them, both in strength and symmetry, by the introduction of prize stallions from the west of Scotland. The prevailing colour is black, but many pairs of bay horses may be seen in the parish, and occasionally a chestnut or strong grey of the old German extraction. Ploughs are invariably drawn by two horses, and double horse carts still are used, although carts drawn by one horse are more frequent than formerly.

The breed of cattle is the pure Angus or Aberdeen polled breed,—the principal points of both being nearly the same. Great care has of late been taken to improve this breed; and nowhere in Scotland are finer cattle to be seen than here,—all crosses or mixture with the Galloway, the short-horned, or any other breed, being carefully avoided, and, with the exception of the stock belonging to one individual, there are no cross-bred cattle in the parish. In regard to the exception alluded to, the cross is between a short-horned bull and the Aberdeen or Angus cows,—they are reared under favourable circumstances, and the produce is entirely fed and sold by the breeder, so that there is little danger of the

cross being extended to a remote degree. Many objections are urged against the general introduction, into the north of Scotland, of the Durham or short-horned breed of cattle. They no doubt, upon "*good keep*," rise to a greater weight, and feed at an earlier age; but they do require this, and they cannot travel any distance to market, either in a lean or fat condition. In the London market they sell at least 1d. per lb. below the Aberdeen or Angus ox, and in a dull market, they remain in the hands of the salesman at least until his Angus *fat* are disposed of. Care must also be taken to preserve the purity of the breed, as the produce of a cross is generally the most coarse and unshapely animal possible. On the other hand, the Aberdeen and Angus cattle possess almost every good property. Their temper is nearly equal to that of the Durham ox; if well kept from their infancy, they rise to a great size, and will fatten when rising only three years old, although, it must be admitted, not with the same facility as the pure short-horned breed or first cross from it. When fat, they will travel a great distance to market, to Edinburgh and Glasgow, at least 100 miles, and when sold for the road, their first halt is usually in Leicestershire. The practice, now become common, of sending fat cattle to London by steam vessels, has already materially influenced the cattle trade in this district. Instead of the greater part of the growth of the parish being bought up by dealers in the spring or mid-summer markets, and carried up to England to be grazed and fed off, many of the farmers now feed all the cattle they rear. The best of them are carried to London by sea, where they fetch a high price, the remainder being bought up for the Glasgow and Edinburgh markets, where they also find a ready sale. In Glasgow, particularly, the Angus cattle form the *prime fat* in the market.

The sheep are entirely confined to the Grampian range; they are generally of the black-faced or mountain breed, and the usual care is taken to improve the stock by purchasing lambs or yearlings at the Linton and Lanark fairs. About 600 black-faced wedders are bought in by the farmers, and fed off on turnips, and this practice is yearly extending; they are, as in other districts, fed on turnip, to which bone manure has been applied. About 600 of different descriptions are bought in and grazed, partly in the glens and partly in enclosed land, during summer, and these are sold either as fat to the butcher, or to farmers to be fed in winter. Of late, some of the Cheviot breed have been introduced, the value of the wool being now an object to the breeder.

Pigs form a very considerable article of produce, and the breed is excellent. Fat pigs are sold to the pork-curers in Montrose and Stonehaven. By them the pork is pickled, and generally sent to the London market.

Husbandry.—The rotation usually followed is the five-shift course, viz. 1. turnip and potatoes, &c.; 2. barley; 3. grass; 4. grass; and 5. oats. Where the strength of the land warrants, the four-shift course is adopted, and on some farms the seven-shift course is preferred, viz. turnip, barley, pasture three years, and followed by two successive white crops; but these rotations are only exceptions, the five-shift course being that generally followed. A small proportion of the *break*, intended for fallow and green crop, is allotted for potatoes, the remainder being generally turnips. When the quantity of dung on the farm is insufficient to manure the break, the deficiency is supplied by the application of bone manure, almost the greatest modern discovery in agriculture. The turnips raised by bone manure are *fed off* by sheep. Barley, it will be seen, is thus extensively grown, wheat and beans not entering into the rotation; and flax can scarcely be said to be cultivated. All the lighter operations of farm work, such as hoeing, raking, reaping, spreading dung, assisting in the barn, are performed by females, whose ruddy appearance indicates the healthy nature of their employment.

The crop is partly cut down by the sickle and partly by the scythe, the last method of cutting, in consequence of the difficulty of procuring reapers, becoming yearly more prevalent. Although the appearance of the crop, both in stook and stack, is rather rough and slovenly, still those who have made trial of both methods affirm that both grain and straw are taken up as well, in every respect, by mowing as by the sickle, and owing to its being less compressed in the sheaf, is ready for the stack in much less time than grain cut by the hand. Ten people accustomed to the work will cut down, take up and stook, on an average, five imperial acres daily.

Improvements.—Although no improvements, on a great scale, have been executed in this parish lately, still, for the last thirty years, the progress of draining the wet land, and reclaiming the waste ground, has been pursued with much ardour, and in this laudable undertaking, both landlord and tenant have been unremitting in their exertions. Lime was formerly more liberally applied than at present; perhaps the difficulties with which the agricultural interest

has had to contend for some years past, may have prevented the application of so expensive a stimulant, and probably it may, in some measure, be superseded by the application of bone manure. Both are most favourable to the production of grass, but the bone manure at the same time secures a crop of turnip, which lime does not.

Leases.—The general duration of leases is nineteen years, and, to the credit of both landlord and tenant, they are generally renewed between the parties.

Farm-Buildings.—The farm-buildings may be considered as substantial, and nearly sufficient for the accommodation of the farms. The farm-houses are generally two stories high, with a kitchen attached; others are in the cottage style, and only one storey: they are almost invariably well finished and slated, and furnished in a style conducive to comfort. The steadings are also slated, or partly so; and perhaps in no parish of the same extent, has the comfort and convenience of the tenants been more attended to.

Obstacles to Improvement.—The greatest obstacles to improvement are the want of enclosures, and the want of shelter; and although around the proprietors' residences, there is a considerable extent of planting and of enclosed ground, still the parish may be considered as deficient in this respect. Thorn hedges have not succeeded well; perhaps the soil is not sufficiently strong to rear them, so as to form complete fences, but it is to be apprehended that the mode of treatment has been far from judicious. As a substitute for thorns, whin hedges have been partially introduced. Several enclosures have been formed by stone dikes; but these are very limited, as there is a deficiency of field stones for erecting fences, and even for the necessary purposes of drainage; and most of the freestone quarries are on the sides of the different ridges that project out from the Grampian range, and at a considerable distance from many parts of the parish. Both stone dikes and thorn hedges form very expensive fences, altogether beyond a tenant's means, and often that of the landlord. Thorns require to be constantly cleaned and pruned, and to be protected for a period of years by paling. Whins form a cheap and a pretty effectual fence; but objections are made to them, particularly on account of the tendency they have to spread and overrun the grass-fields. Strong belts and hedge-rows for the purpose of shelter are much wanted,

for protecting the fields from the gales that blow from the Grampians, and from the sharp easterly sea-breezes.

As the whole of Fordoun parish is tolerably well watered,—the soil well adapted for grazing, there cannot be a doubt that its productive qualities would be greatly increased by enclosing and planting in a judicious manner. To do this, however, on a great scale, the combined efforts of landlords and tenants are requisite, and the stone-dike, the thorn, and whin hedge should be resorted to as circumstances required. On a lease of nineteen years, the enclosing and planting ought to be done at the landlords' expense, the tenant paying a certain rate of interest. If the lease is extended to twenty-seven or thirty years, the tenant might contribute his share of the expense. If the fence is of stone, the tenant might perform the carriage,—if of thorns with ditch and dike, he ought, at least, to clean, prune, and partly to protect, and if an earthen dike, with whins on the summit, the tenant undoubtedly should take charge of the fence after the landlord has completed it.

There being a scarcity of stones for draining, tiles might be advantageously used. The proprietor should pay the *prime cost* of the tiles, the tenant paying the *interest*, besides cutting the drain, carrying and laying the tiles, and covering in the surface.

In general, farm-buildings are erected at the landlord's expense, the tenant contributing as his share only the carriage of materials, or the expense thereof; but on one or two estates, a good deal more than this is left to be done by the tenant, a practice which cannot be too much reprobated, as withdrawing a part of the tenant's capital from its more legitimate purpose,—the improvement of his land.

There are several quarries of freestone in the parish, which are fully adequate to supply materials for its architectural purposes, particularly for rubble work. It is difficult to say what the yearly produce of these quarries may amount to, as they are in the hands of the proprietors, who only dispose of the surplus produce after supplying the necessary demands of their estates; perhaps the whole amount obtained for stones actually sold does not exceed L. 120 or L. 140 yearly.

There are no fisheries in the parish, the rivers being only of value in so far as they serve for spawning-ground for the salmon.

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce may be as under :

Table I. *Gross Produce.*—

Pease and beans, 360 quarters at L. 1, 6s.		L. 468	0	0
Wheat, 120 do. at L. 2, 12s.		312	0	0
Barley, 6,160 do. at L. 1, 10s.		9,240	0	0
Oats, 12,294 do. at L. 1, 2s.		13,523	8	0
		<hr/>		
		L. 23,543	8	0
Pease, wheat, barley, and oat-straw, 18,934 quarters at 5s.		4,733	10	0
Potatoes, 5660 bolls at 7s.	L. 1981	0	0	
Turnips, 14,100 tons at 7s.	4935	0	0	
		<hr/>		
		6,916	0	0
Hay, 102,000 stones at 4d.	1700	0	0	
Pasture, 3932 acres at L. 1, 2s.	4325	4	0	
		<hr/>		
		6,025	4	0
Wood sold yearly,		180	0	0
Quarries,		120	0	0
Produce of orchards, mosses, &c. not worth mentioning,		0	0	0
		<hr/>		
Total,		L. 41,518	2	0

Table II. Perhaps the following table may exhibit a more accurate state of the capital and produce of the parish, its disposition, and how much is available for the general use of the community :

Live Stock.—

1. <i>Horses.</i>				
306 used in agriculture,	}	at L. 24,	L. 9,384	0
48 carriage, post, gig, and saddle horses,				
9 carriers' horses,				
28 foals reared annually,				
2. <i>Cattle.</i>				
24 bulls at L. 10,		L. 240	0	0
679 cows, of which 50 are kept in Auchinblae, at L. 8,		5,432	0	0
1863 young cattle, of one, two, and three years old, at L. 6,		11,178	0	0
767 calves reared, at L. 2,		1,534	0	0
20 do. fed, at L. 2,		40	0	0
742 cattle, bought in for grazing and feeding, at L. 7,		5,194	0	0
		<hr/>		
			23,618	0
3. <i>Sheep.</i>				
2100 sheep, at 14s.		L. 1,470	0	0
745 lambs produced, at 9s.		835	5	0
70 ewes bought, at 10s.		35	0	0
900 widders bought and grazed, or fed off on turnip, at 18s.		810	0	0
		<hr/>		
			2,650	5
4. <i>Pigs.</i>				
778 pigs reared and fed, at L. 1, 4s.			933	12
5. <i>Poultry.</i>				
3386 poultry kept, including turkeys, geese, ducks, and hens, at 1s. 3d.		L. 211	12	6
6694 poultry reared, at 6d.		167	7	0
13,148 dozen eggs produced, at 6d.		328	14	0
		<hr/>		
			707	13
6. <i>Dairy Produce.</i>				
32,592 lbs. butter made at 7d.		L. 950	12	0
16,296 lbs. cheese made, at 3d.		203	14	0
		<hr/>		
			1,154	6
		<hr/>		
* Value,		L. 38,447	16	6

* In statements of this nature, perfect accuracy is unattainable; but in the present

Table III. *Gross Produce.*—

	No. of acres un-der crop.	Produce per acre.	Quantity produced.	Value.
<i>1. Fallow and green crop.</i>				
Pease and beans,	120	3 quarters.	360 at 26s.	L. 468 0 0
Potatoes,	283	20 bolls	5660 7s.	1981 0 0
Turnip,	1410	10 tons	14,100 7s.	4935 0 0
Fallow,	453			
<i>2. Grain crop.</i>				
Wheat,	40	3 quarters.	120 52s.	312 0 0
Barley,	1760	3½ do.	6160 30s.	9240 0 0
Oats,	2732	4¼ do.	12,294 22s.	13,523 8 0
<i>3. Grass.</i>				
Hay,	600	170 ston.	102,000 4d.	1700 0 0
Pasture,	3932		22s. per acre.	4825 4 0
	11,390			36,484 12 0
Straw of pease, wheat, barley and oats,			16,934 quarters, at 5s.	4,733 10 0
Wood sold yearly,				180 0 0
Quarries,				120 0 0
Produce of orchards, mosses, &c. not worth mentioning,				0 0 0
				<u>L. 41,518 2 0</u>

Disposable Produce.

<i>1. Cattle.</i>				
Fat cattle sold, 384, at L. 13 average,				L. 4992 0 0
Lean do. 1127, at L. 8,				9016 0 0
Calves, fat, 20, at L. 2,				40 0 0
Pigs, 743, 80 lb. each, at 3½d or average value, 24s. each,				866 16 8
				<u>14,914 16 8</u>
From which deduct price of 742 cattle bought in, at L. 7 per head,				5194 0 0
				<u>L. 9720 16 8</u>

Upwards of 100 head of cattle, and 80 calves may be slaughtered and consumed in the parish yearly, their value may amount to L.1070.

<i>2. Sheep.</i>				
Lambs sold, 270, at 9s.			L. 121 10 0	
Ewes, 400, at 12s.			240 0 0	
Wedders, 990, at L. 1, 4s.			1188 0 0	
			<u>1549 10 0</u>	
Value of wood sold,			150 0 0	
			<u>L. 1699 10 0</u>	
Deduct hogs bought in, 200, at 10s.	L. 100 0 0			
wedders, 900, at 18s.	810 0 0			
ewes, 70, at 10s.	35 0 0			
			<u>945 0 0</u>	
				754 10 0

About 200 ewes and wedders, and 100 lambs may be slaughtered in the parish annually, the value of which may be about L. 270, besides the weekly supply of butcher meat brought from Montrose, Stonehaven, &c.

Carried forward, L. 10,475 6 8

case, no pains have been spared to approximate to the truth as nearly as the nature of the inquiry would admit of. Intelligent individuals in every district of the parish have been applied to for information, which has been most readily and carefully afforded; and the writer firmly believes, that the amount of produce of bestial, &c. stated under the branch of "Industry," represents an average of years more truly than the amount taken from the most perfect information in any one year could possibly do.

			Brought forward, L. 10,475 6 8
3. Poultry.			
Turkeys, geese, hens, chickens, ducks and ducklings, 2641, at 9d.		L. 99 0 9	
Eggs, 5944 dozen, at 6d.		148 12 0	247 12 9
		<hr/>	
4. Dairy-produce.			
Cheese, 7100 lb. at 3d.		L. 88 15 0	
Butter, 20,000 lb. at 7d.		583 6 8	
		<hr/>	672 1 8
			<hr/>
			L. 11,395 1 1
5. Grain.			
Wheat, 90 quarters, at L. 2, 12s.		L. 234 0 0	
Pease and beans, 270 quarters, at L. 1, 6s.		351 0 0	
Barley, 4840 quarters, at L. 1, 10s.		7260 0 0	
Oats, 4918, do. at L. 1, 2s.		5409 16 0	
		<hr/>	
		13,254 16 0	
Potatoes, 1600 bolls, at 7s.	L. 560 0 0		
Hay, 12,000 stones, at 4d.	200 0 0		
	<hr/>	760 0 0	
			<hr/>
			14,014 16 0

Value of produce disposed of by the growers, L. 25,409 17 1

This may appear a small sum applicable for rent, expense of production and interest on capital, but it is to be kept in mind that the tenant's family, servants, horses, &c. are maintained, and seed-corn, &c. taken from the undisposed produce.

Manufactures.—The manufactures are confined to spinning of flax into yarn, and its manufacture into brown linen. The only spinning mill is that at Auchinblae, originally erected by Mr Kinnear, and now belonging to Farquharson and Company, where about 60 people are employed, who work about eleven hours and a half daily. The hands employed are 16 men, from 8s. to L. 1 per week; 6 boys from 2s. to 7s. per week; 38 women and girls from 2s. to 5s. 6d. per week.

The yarns manufactured by them are,

45,000 spindles flax yarn per annum, value	L. 6200 0 0
25,000 do. ton yarn per annum, value	3800 0 0
	<hr/>
70,000 spindles yarn spun,	Value L. 10,000 0 0

In addition to this, a number of *hands* are employed as weavers in Auchinblae, of whom some are natives of the parish, but many come from other parts of the country, and do not generally remain long in one place. By these, about 29,700 spindles are made into 117,690 yards of linen, the value of the yarn being about L. 3712, and of the linen L. 4640. The price paid for weaving averages 1d. to 1½d. per yard.

Corn-Mills.—There are five corn-mills, situated in different parts of the parish, with drying kilns attached. At none of these

is wheat made into flour. Almost every farm, of the extent of 100 acres and upwards, is accommodated with a thrashing-mill. They are driven either by water or horses, according to circumstances.

Fettercairn Club.—The Fettercairn Club, for the improvement of the breed of live stock, includes amongst its members a great proportion of the proprietors of the county, and most respectable tenantry of the district. The club is open to members from any part of the country, but stock can only be exhibited which has been bred by agriculturists in the parishes of Fettercairn, Fordoun, Laurencekirk, and Marykirk, members of the club. This club has been in existence for several years, and is conducted with the greatest spirit and unanimity. Since its formation, a most marked improvement is perceptible in the quality of stock, particularly of the native breed of cattle; and at the annual show, which takes place in August, the stock exhibited attracts the admiration of every amateur present. In corroboration of what is stated, it may be mentioned, that at the Highland Society's general show, which took place at Aberdeen in October 1834, which was open to all Scotland, but more particularly to the counties of Forfar, Aberdeen, Banff, Moray, and Kincardine, one-sixth of the whole prizes were carried off by members of this club; and, what is more remarkable, these premiums amounted to nearly one-third of the value of the whole premiums given by the Society. It may also be remarked, that of about fifty-four premiums given for stock at the general show alluded to, twenty were gained by competitors from Kincardineshire, a sufficient proof of the great attention paid to this branch of rural economy in the county.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Villages.—The Kirkton of Fordoun can scarcely be called a village, for, beside the manse and school-house, it can boast of only the neat and rural "*Fordoun Inn*," and two or three additional cottages. Auchinblae, the only village in the parish, stands on the opposite side of the valley, on a gently rising ground. It contains many substantial houses, and is altogether a clean and thriving place. The government is vested in a bailie, appointed by the Earl of Kintore, who is the superior, and the population amounts to 550 persons, partly employed in manufacturing linen and linen yarn, in the retail trade, and as artisans and occupiers of the croft land adjoining the village. Its distance from Stonehaven is 11 miles; from the port of Gourdon, 8; and from Montrose, 16; to which places the communication is easy, either by turnpike or good com-

mutation roads. Auchinblae enjoys the advantage of a daily post, with runners both to Stonehaven and Montrose. Commutation roads are carried in all directions through the parish; and the extent of roads of this description cannot be less than forty miles. Much attention is bestowed by the trustees in keeping them in repair, each being desirous of obtaining as large a share of highway and bridge money as possible for his own district, and no less desirous of expending it in the most judicious and economical manner. Bridges are thrown across the different streams where necessary, and are always kept in good repair. The turnpike road from Aberdeen to Edinburgh through Strathmore runs through the lower part of the parish for about three miles, along which two coaches, "*the Defiance*" and "*Union*," convey the *natives* daily, either to Edinburgh or Aberdeen, with the greatest ease, safety, and dispatch.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church stands in the most beautiful spot in the parish; and, although in as central a situation as could have been selected, still several of the parishioners have from four to six miles to travel in order to attend divine worship at their own parish church. The church is a handsome edifice, erected in 1828-29, at an expense of not less than L. 3000. It is in the Gothic style, from designs by Mr Smith, architect, Aberdeen, and consists of a nave (but without side aisles,) with a Gothic tower on the west end, rising to the height of ninety-three feet, forming a striking object from all quarters. The church is finished in a neat and even elegant manner, superior to most parochial churches in Scotland. It is seated for 1230, and is fully equal to the accommodation of the parish. The church (with the burying-ground) is surrounded by a wall of substantial masonry, and is approached by an elegant gateway.

The manse was repaired in 1809. It affords considerable accommodation, though not in the modern style. The situation of both church and manse have been already described.

The glebe contains about the statutory number of arable acres, viz. four Scots, or five imperial acres. The soil is excellent, but there is no grass glebe attached to it. Its yearly value may be about L. 10 or L. 12.

The whole teinds of the parish are bishops' teinds, and formerly belonged to the Archbishop of St Andrews. They are now the property of the Crown, of whom they are held by the different proprietors of the land, either on lease, or by tacit relocation. The

present stipend, by decree of modification dated 4th December 1833, amounts to 130 bolls, 9 stones, 10lbs. meal; 95 quarters, 2 bolls, 3 pecks, 2 gallons, barley, imperial weight and measure, and L. 10 for communion elements; or 136 bolls meal, and 136 bolls barley, Linlithgow weight and measure, and L. 10 for communion elements. There is still a considerable amount of unexhausted teind in the parish, the teinds of only one estate having been surrendered. The whole of the parish is supposed to come under the denomination of church lands.

The number of Dissenters in Fordoun is very limited. They consist chiefly of a few families attached to the doctrines of the Episcopal Church. There are neither chapels of ease, dissenting chapels, nor government churches in the parish, the great body of the people being members of the Established Church.

State of Religion.

There were in the parish in	<i>Established Church.</i>	<i>Episcopalians.</i>	<i>Seceders and Independents.</i>	<i>Roman Catholics.</i>
1791,	2001	106	151	None
1801,	2101	89	33	None
1811,	2414	85	32	4
1821,	2276	74	23	2
1831,	2159	61	18	None
1834,	2279	81	8	1

The number of communicants belonging to the Established Church in 1834 was 1234.

There are no societies for religious purposes established, the annual examinations and periodical visitations of the clergyman being deemed, and justly deemed, sufficient for the purposes of religious instruction. These examinations are numerous and punctually attended, and the visitations are looked forward to as the means of cementing and promoting that intercourse and good feeling which ought always to subsist between a clergyman and his parishioners.

Education.—There are six schools in the parish, viz. the parochial school, and five others taught by individuals, who have only to trust to the fees they receive as a remuneration for their trouble, there being no endowment, or even annual subscriptions made for that purpose. Besides these, there are two schools taught by females, where girls are instructed in reading, writing, and needlework. The branches of instruction taught at the parish school are, reading, writing and arithmetic, mathematics and Latin, and if required, Greek; the branches taught at the other schools are reading, writing, and arithmetic. The school salary at Fordoun is L. 35, 12s. 11d., and the amount of fees is annually about L. 15.

The schoolmaster is besides session-clerk, the emoluments of which office amount to about L. 8 yearly.

The number of scholars educated at the different schools amounted, in March 1834, to 312, of whom 184 were boys, and 128 girls. The schools are best attended from November to May. During summer the attendance is not numerous. The parish schoolmaster has also a Sunday evening school for six months in the year; it is attended by about 70 scholars. The parish school-house, as well as the schoolmaster's house, are large and commodious, and considerably exceed what is considered as the legal accommodation.

There are few, if any natives of the parish, and residing in it, who have reached the age of fifteen, who cannot read. The greater part who have reached that age have been taught to write.

Literature.—A parish library was instituted in 1827. It now consists of about 610 volumes, chiefly religious, but including also books on history, biography, voyages, travels, &c. The number of readers is considerable, and yearly increasing. They amount in the winter season to about 200, who read gratis. The schoolmaster acts as librarian. Besides the parish library, there is also a small Sunday school library.

Although Fordoun cannot boast of any public reading-room, or news-room, yet newspapers (often of doubtful principles) are easily obtained and eagerly read; there is consequently no lack of politicians sufficiently liberal in their principles, and irregular in their practice.

Charitable Institutions.—There are none; but there are two Friendly Societies, viz. The Ploughman Society, consisting of about 200 members, and the Weavers' Society of 70. The members of both societies contribute 1s. per quarter. They give allowance to sick, and to aged and decayed members.

Fordoun parish bank, instituted in May 1815, is limited to male and female servants, crofters, labourers, tradesmen, including weavers and mill-spinners. It is managed by twelve directors, a treasurer, and a clerk. The minister acts as treasurer, and the schoolmaster as clerk. Depositors are obliged to withdraw their money, and place it in the British Linen Co. when the sum reaches L. 20. Formerly it was limited to L. 10. The books and vouchers are examined annually, and attested by an auditor chosen by the directors.

		<i>Sums deposited yearly with interest.</i>	<i>Sums with interest repaid yearly.</i>
Half-year of	1815,	- L. 396	- L. 31
Within the year	1816,	- 302	- 98
	1817,	- 260	- 122
	1818,	- 339	- 184
	1819,	- 380	- 252
	1820,	- 441	- 265
	1821,	- 424	- 296
	1822,	- 421	- 300
	1823,	- 393	- 305
	1824,	- 374	- 294
	1825,	- 570	- 284
	1826,	- 897	- 422
	1827,	- 538	- 609
	1828,	- 813	- 592
	1829,	- 730	- 614
	1830,	- 577	- 740
	1831,	- 580	- 415
	1832,	- 671	- 717
	1833,	- 593	- 610
	1834,	- 659	- 608
	Total received,	L. 10,358	Total paid, L. 7708

January 1, 1835. — The balance in the Bank amounted to about L. 2650: the number of depositors at present is 280. A considerable part of the sums repaid were transferred to the public bank,—and the vouchers for L. 1000 of these sums were left till January 1835, in the hands of the treasurer of the parish bank, who gave his receipt for them, and drew the interest on the 1st January every year, and paid it to the depositors, along with the interest on deposits in the parish bank,—but the treasurer finding he had now fully enough to do with the parish bank matters, the greater part of these vouchers were delivered up, January 1835, to their owners, it being understood that the Treasurer of the parish bank would assist them in drawing the interest on the sums deposited in the public bank, when it became due.

Poor and Parochial funds.—These consist of a fixed investment in feu-duties, bearing five and a half per cent. interest of about L. 600, and of L. 400 lodged in the bank, or laid out at interest. The late Alexander Crombie, Esq. of Phesdo, was most anxious about the support and comfort of the poor. Observing the increase of the poor, and the diminution in the means of their support, from the fall of the interest of the capital in the hands of the kirk-session, he, at the loss of L. 150, parted with the above-mentioned feu-duties, in order to form a permanent and steady fund for the support of the poor, and also be-

queathed L. 100 at his death, to be added to said fund. Collections for the poor in 1834, L. 90, 9s. 5½d.—Donations received during the last ten years from heritors and others, of from L. 1 to L. 12, L. 185; legacies to the session within same period, L. 190: in whole, L. 375, or L. 37, 10s. yearly.

These include Mr Crombie's legacy of L. 100, and L. 50 from the late Mrs Valentine Bogendollo, who was born, and resided during the greater part of her lifetime, in the parish of Fordoun, and L. 50 of legacy from the late Mrs Burnett of Monboddoo, received in April 1835. The whole sum at the disposal of the kirk-session, arising from donations, legacies, collections at church-doors, feu-duties and interest of money, thus amounts to about L. 170 yearly. The ordinary number of poor on the *monthly* roll is 48: these receive an allowance from 2s. to 5s. according to their necessities. The extraordinary poor amount to 40. These get occasional relief as circumstances warrant. The annual distribution to the poor amounts to about L. 160. The session have had to pay, for the last three years, above L. 25 annually for the support of lunatics. Collection in 1834 for the general Assembly's Mission to India L. 6, 7s. Collection in 1833 for the General Assembly's Schools in the Highlands, L. 7, 7s. 6d. There is a public collection once a year for religious purposes, and an annual collection for the Aberdeen Infirmary. The amount of this last averages L. 10 yearly, which secures to patients from this parish admission on favourable terms.

It is a matter of daily observation and regret, that the repugnance felt by the poor of Scotland, to receive charity in any shape, is by no means so strong as formerly. It is still considered as degrading to a certain extent, in this parish, and few, it may be said *none*, ever apply for aid, who are not fit objects of charity.

Prisons.—There are no prisons or lock-up houses in the parish; all prisoners, when apprehended by the constable, being either carried to the nearest Justice of Peace, or before the Procurator-fiscal in Stonehaven. To its credit, there have only, during the last seven years, been apprehended in the parish, 2; committed for trial, 2; convicted, 2; both were for assaults. Neither of the culprits were natives of the parish.

Fairs, &c.—Paldy fair is the most considerable market; it is held on a moor, about two miles north from Auchinblae, at the foot of the Grampians, in the month of July, for the sale of cattle, sheep, and horses. Of late, this market has been on the decline. Ano-

ther market, also for the sale of horses and cattle, has been lately established, or rather revived, in the west end of the parish, viz. Lammas-muir. This is likewise held in July, and the day appears judiciously chosen, as being one of a series of fairs, held on successive days, commencing in Aberdeenshire, and terminating at Kinross. Two fairs are held in Auchinblae, viz. Pasch market in April, and May-day on 22d May, and term markets for engaging servants on 26th May and 22d November. These are numerous attended. Weekly markets or *crofts*, as they are called, for the sale of cattle and grain, also in Auchinblae, are held every Friday during winter. They begin in November, and end in April. There are two small fairs or cattle-markets about the middle of June and July on Camack muir, on the lower part of the parish;—they are but indifferently attended.

Inns or Alehouses.—There is one inn at the Kirkton of Fordoun; and five in the village of Auchinblae. This number is certainly too great. Auchinblae also boasts of one spirit-dealer. In the country parish, there are three public-houses.

Fuel.—Coals, mostly from Newcastle, constitute the principal part of the fuel in the lower part of the parish, in addition to which, a small supply of peat from the Grampians is obtained. Brushwood, but in no great quantities, is also occasionally to be procured. In the upper part of the parish, the fuel is chiefly peat and turf from the summit of the Grampians, where the peat-mosses are extensive, and of very considerable depth. Coals cost 1s. 2d. a barrel of about 1½ cwt. It is difficult to say what the cost of peat and turf may be, perhaps about 4s. per load.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The most striking alterations betwixt the present state of the parish, and that which existed at the time the last Statistical Account was made up, are: the erection of several splendid mansions, and of a parish church; the extension and improvement of Auchinblae; the extension and general improvement of public roads; the very marked alteration in the houses and steadings of the tenants and crofters, and the general improved condition of the dwellings of all classes. The planting and improvement of waste land is not the least alteration that has taken place, neither is the improved state of husbandry undeserving of notice, as the following tables of ground under cultivation, and number of live stock, extracted from the Agricultural Survey of the county, a work,

drawn up in 1807, considerably posterior to the former Statistical Account of the parish, will shew.

Table shewing the extent of arable land, and how cultivated in 1807.

Pease,	-	-	-	250	acres.
Potatoes,	-	-	-	94	
Turnip,	-	-	-	750	
Flax,	-	-	-	98	
Fallow,	-	-	-	175	
Wheat,	-	-	-	30	
Barley,	-	-	-	1309	
Oats,	-	-	-	2508	
Grass,	-	-	-	4020	
In Gardens,	-	-	-	34	
Arable land in 1807,				9208	
Do. in 1835,				11,330	

Table shewing live-stock in 1807, and in 1835.

	1807.	1835.
1. <i>Horses.</i>		
Used in husbandry,	233	315
Riding horses, &c.	13	48
Foals reared annually,	16	28
2. <i>Cattle.</i>		
Cows,	648	679
Draught oxen,	30	0
Young cattle, one, two, and three years old,	1575	2605
Calves reared,	580	787
3. <i>Sheep.</i>	2500	3815
4. <i>Pigs and Swine.</i>	30	778

Farms are of all sizes, from the croft of two acres to the farm of 600, the general extent of farms being about 200 acres. Perhaps no greater improvement could be effected, or greater boon conferred by landlords upon the agricultural population, than a *more judicious disposition of the size of farms*. These ought to be of all sizes, and adapted as well for the capital of the great agriculturist, as for the savings of the thrifty ploughman, or industrious labourer. By attending to this, scope would be given to the exertions of the humblest individual. The ploughman would strive to become an overseer, the overseer a crofter or small farmer, and bringing his experience and sagacity into operation, in time a large farmer. The improvements of which this parish is susceptible have been already adverted to, viz. inclosing, planting, and draining. Perhaps a conversion, upon equitable principles, of money into grain rents, *would also be an improvement*. Some satisfactory instances of this have already taken place, and it is hoped, this mode of adjustment may become general.

During the last year in which the property tax was levied, (1815,) the value of heritable property in the parish assessed, amount-

ed to L. 8873, 9s. 9d.; and the amount of property tax paid was L. 1151, 12s. 4d. Amount of assessed taxes for 1815, was L. 614, 8s. 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. Number of persons assessed about 85. The above were war taxes. The amount of assessed taxes payable for 1834 was only L. 225, 5s. 3d. Persons assessed, 50. The land tax of the parish is L. 66, 9s. 1d.; of which redeemed, L. 45, 0s. 2d. leaving payable annually, L. 21, 8s. 11d.; highway and bridge money being an assessment payable only by proprietors, at the rate of L. 1 per L. 100 Scots, valued rent, L. 71, 5s. 10d. Conversion money in lieu of statute labour, payable by tenants and occupiers of property at L. 1 per L. 100 Scots; but of this only one-half is collected in money, say L. 35, 12s. 11d.; and for the other half statute labour is still exacted. Rogue money, on an average of seven years, amounts to 4s. 6d. per L. 100 Scots valued rent, say L. 16, 0s. 3d.

Drawn up 1835, Revised 1837.