

## PARISH OF LOGIE-COLDSTONE.

PRESBYTERY OF KINCARDINE O'NEIL, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.

THE REV. JOHN M'HARDY, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

THE parish of Logie-Coldstone is principally situated in Cromar, a district of Aberdeenshire comprehending part of five parishes, and forming an extensive amphitheatre amid that range of mountains and hills which runs between the rivers Dee and Don for a considerable part of their course.

At some remote period, a great portion of this district seems evidently to have been the site of a large lake or chain of lakes (two of which still subsist), fed by several rivulets, which now wend their way sluggishly through it, occasionally inundating the lower grounds to some extent, when swollen by much rain, or by the sudden dissolution of the snow, which falls abundantly on the surrounding hills during the winter. Since this evanished lake burst the barrier which confined it on the south, several tumuli or mounds have been formed in different places of its site, by the drifting of the finer particles of sand which covered its bottom, while the flat ground around them consists generally of coarser gravelly deposits, interspersed with patches of peat-bog.

*Name, &c.*—The parish of Logie was annexed to Coldstone anno 1618. When a separate parish, it appears to have been generally called Logie-Mar, to distinguish it from the other parishes into which the word *Log* enters as a compound, such as Logie-Buchan, Logie-Pert. The etymology of Coldstone (formerly written, and still pronounced, Colstane by the inhabitants of the district), cannot be determined with any degree of certainty.

*Extent, &c.*—From east to west, the parish of Logie-Coldstone extends, in some places, to upwards of 5 miles, in others, to not more than half that distance. From north to south, that portion of it situated within the district of Cromar does not extend to more than 4 miles; but, including the portion which lies without the district on Deskry-side, the extreme length is not less than 7 miles.

The figure of the parish is extremely irregular. It is bounded on the south, by the parishes of Glenmuick and Aboyne; on the west, by Glenmuick; on the north, by Strathdon, Tarland, and Towie; and on the east, by Tarland, Coull, and Aboyne.

*Topographical Appearances.*—On the west side of the parish a range of steep and high hills runs the whole distance, among which Morven stands conspicuous, commanding a view to the east as far as the eye can reach. On the north, the hills rise more gradually, and are less elevated.

*Climate.*—The climate of this parish, with the exception of that part which lies on Deskry-side, is tolerably mild, equable, and salubrious, and must become still more so from the extent of drainage which is taking place, and from the additional shelter which will be afforded by the plantations made and making.

*Hydrography.*—There are numerous springs in the parish, but the only one which has attracted the particular notice of the inhabitants, is a powerful chalybeate, which arises in a plantation a little south from the church, and seems to have acquired its Gaelic name of *Poll-dubh*, “black mire,” from pouring its water into a small mossy hollow within a few yards of its source. It is occasionally resorted to by some for the benefit of their health, and by others for amusement.

One of the lochs alluded to as still subsisting in the district is partly in this parish. It is called Lochdawan, (supposed to be a corruption of the Gaelic *Loch d'abhainn*, “lake of two waters,”) and is about two and a half or three miles in circumference.

There is a small circular pond upon an elevated part of the farm of Nether Ruthven, which bears the name of *Lochan-uaine*, “the green pool or lakelet,” from the peculiar colour of the water. The water of this pond has never been analyzed with a view to discover its colouring ingredients or particular qualities. Though seemingly of a very impure nature, the cattle upon the farm are said to prefer it to any other.

The only stream of running water of any magnitude connected with the parish is that of Deskry, which forms a boundary line for some distance betwixt it and Strathdon. The other rivulets in the parish, in common with those of the whole district of Cromar, discharge their water into the river Dee in the parish of Aboyne.

*Geology.*—The granite formation prevails generally throughout the parish; but the direction and dip of the strata and beds has not been particularly attended to. No mines or ores of any de-

scription are known to exist. On the slope of the high grounds, where the soil is untransported, it is generally of a good depth and fertile quality. On the low grounds, where it is transported, it is mostly shallow, and of a sandy or peaty nature.

*Wood.*—With the exception of a few patches of dwarfish alder, no indigenous wood exists in the parish; but roots and fragments of oak, fir, hazel, &c. of a large size are frequently dug up in the mossy ground. From 800 to 900 acres have, at different times, been planted by the different heritors, principally with fir and larch, to which sorts of timber the soil appears most congenial, or at least that part of the soil which has been set apart for plantation.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

In a volume recently published by the Spalding Club, there appear a few letters written by one of the heritors of the parish of Logie, (Gordon of Blelack), who espoused the cause of the Stuart family in the Rebellion of 1745; and also an account of the trial of some inhabitants of the parish accused of the crime of witchcraft.

*Antiquities.*—Two different farms in the parish have received the name of Cairnmore, from the existence of large cairns or piles of stone within their boundaries. One of these cairns, situated about half a mile north of the manse of Coldstone, must have originally been of remarkable size; for though it has, according to the report of the inhabitants, furnished materials for the erection of several enclosures in the neighbourhood, it still stands conspicuous. As the remains of several smaller cairns appear on a piece of moor ground, a little west from the large one, there is reason to think, that a fierce battle, of which, however, there is no tradition, must have been fought upon the spot.

Upon the farm of Parks of Coldstone, and on a spot of ground which, though now drained and improved, has evidently been a morass, there is still to be seen a deep and wide moat, surrounding a slightly elevated area of about an acre.

In the gable-wall of a house, which forms part of the farm-offices at Mill of Newton, may be seen a sculptured stone, which formerly stood on a rising ground a little to the west, which still bears the name of Tomachar (Gaelic *Tom-chathair*, “hillock of the chair.”) Drawings of the stone are said to have been taken and forwarded to antiquaries; but no satisfactory explanation of the figures delineated upon it has been given.

During the last season, the tenant of Cairnmore of Blelack,

while ploughing a field which has been long arable, found the plough striking against a stone, which he resolved to remove, and on proceeding to do so, discovered that it formed part of a paved road of considerable width, the extent of which has not yet been ascertained. Near to the spot where it was laid bare, there is a hollow, which is known by the name of the Picts' Howe, with which it is supposed to be somehow connected. In removing part of the stones forming the pavement, numerous pieces of charred wood were found lying beneath them.

There are no resident heritors in the parish, and the only mansion-house is that of Blelack, which is at present unoccupied.

*Parochial Registers.*—Registers of baptisms and of church discipline have been kept since 1748.

*Land-owners.*—The heritors of the parish, in order of their respective valuations, are,—

Mrs Farquharson of Invercauld,	L.1250	0	0
Earl of Aberdeen,	781	0	0
Marquis of Huntly,	323	0	0
John Forbes, Esq. of Blelack,	290	0	0
Major Farquharson of Corrachree,	140	0	0
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	L.2784	0	0

*Modern Buildings.*—The church was rebuilt in 1780; the manse in 1783, and repaired and enlarged in 1826.

There are three meal-mills, one circular saw-mill, and numerous thrashing-mills in the parish.

### III.—POPULATION.

Amount of population in 1801,	861
1811,	815
1821,	858
1831,	910
1841,	936

Number of illegitimate births within last three years, 10.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

In few districts of Scotland, perhaps, has agriculture made greater progress than it has done in this parish, since the former Statistical Account of the country was published. At that period, we are told, that few turnips were sown, and clover and rye-grass cultivated only on three farms. The other lands in the parish, though capable of improvement, are said to have been "in a state of nature." The farms at that time, so distinguished for enclosing, straightening, and dressing, can no longer boast of superiority of appearance or peculiarity of produce, for skilful and successful competitors have gradually sprung up around them, and stripped them of their honours.

There are in the parish about 3000 acres cultivated or occasionally in tillage, and about 900 acres under wood.

The average rent of land per acre is L.1, 5s.; real rental of the parish, L.3100.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The number of families in the parish is 190, and all belong to the Established Church. Stipend, 128 bolls barley, 128 bolls meal, with L.8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. The glebe is about twelve acres in extent, and may be valued at L.15. The manse was built in 1783; it was repaired and additions made to it in 1826.

*Education.*—There is but one school in the parish,—the parochial. The teacher's salary is L.34, 4s. 4½d.; probable amount of his school-fees, L.25. He receives, as session-clerk, L.1, 10s. per annum, and shares in the Dick Bequest.

*Poor.*—Number of poor, 18. Average annual amount of contributions for their relief, L.34, whereof, from church collections, L.24; from alms and legacies, L.10.

## PARISH OF OLD MACHAR.

PRESBYTERY OF ABERDEEN, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.

THE REV. ROBERT SMITH, } *Ministers.*  
 THE REV. P. FORBES, D. D., }  
 THE REV. GAVIN PARKER, *Bon Accord.*  
 THE REV. JAMES BRYCE, *Gilcomston.*  
 THE REV. ROBERT FORBES, A. M., *Woodside.*  
 THE REV. WILLIAM MITCHELL, *Holburn Street.*

#### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

THE parish of Old Machar was originally a deanery, called the Deanery of St Machar, and comprehended the parishes of Old Machar, New Machar, and Newhills. In times of Popery, they do not seem to have been divided into separate parishes, but to have been chapels in the deanery, at which chapels divine worship was regularly performed, as the inhabitants of so extensive and populous a district could not conveniently meet in one place for public worship. New Machar seems to have been erected into a se-