PARISH OF DRAINIE.

PRESBYTERY OF ELGIN, SYNOD OF MORAY.

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I.—Topography and Natural History.

Drainie comprehends the ancient and united parishes of Kineder, a parsonage; and Ogston, a mensal church, of which the Bishop of Moray drew the great teinds. Ogston was disjoined from St Andrews and annexed to Kineder in 1642. The church of the united parish was built about 1666, near the mansion-house, and on the estate of Drainie, and thereby gave name to the united parish.

Name.—The etymology of Kineder is evidently Celtic, (*ceaneder*, signifying a peninsula or point between the Moray Frith and lake of Spynie,) but the derivation of Drainie, like its ancient territory, is fiercely disputed between the modern Celts and Picts, and I must leave them to settle it if they can. That the Celts at some time, and prior to the Picts, possessed Drainie, is, I think, evident, from the Celtic origin of the names of all the principal farms or promontories, such as *Ardivat*, *Coulard*, &c. descriptive of their locality; but when the Celts possessed it, or when the Picts first took possession of it, neither Roman nor British history determines. Certain it is, that the Celts and their language were expelled at a very early period from the lowlands of Moray, and never were able to regain a footing in it, even after the Pictish kingdom was overthrown in the year 842. But, though conquered, the Picts were neither extirpated nor expelled; chieftains and nobles, no doubt, were, like those of Moray, killed, transferred, or banished; but the idea of extirpation of the people is absurd. The Picts, long before 842, had conquered Moray. They contended, and often successfully, not only against Malcolm I., but against all the Malcolms who sat upon the Scottish throne. They then held Moray, and their descendants still hold it. They then spoke the Pictish, which is nothing else than a dialect of the Danish or Norwegian, in other words, what we still speak in Drainie, *good broad Scotch*.

Boundaries, &c.—This parish, as its ancient name imports, is a peninsula; bounded on the north, by the Moray Frith; on the south, by the lake of Spynie; on the east, by the river Lossie; and on the west, by the parish of Duffus. It is in form a parallelogram; in length about four, and in breadth about two miles. It is low or flat, and, excepting on its northern boundary, approaches nearly to a level. Its southern boundary, stretching along lake Spynie, through the canal of which the tide now flows, is cold and swampy.

The low drained fields consist of rich loam or marly clay, and bear heavy crops of every kind of grain; the lighter grounds rest upon a substratum of gravel, or upon pure white sand. The quality of the ground is various, and the transition from the very best to the worst so sudden, that scarcely twenty acres alike are to be found. About a square mile in the centre is of the very worst description. It never was good,—commons seldom are so; but what was naturally bad, was made worse, by peeling and paring off the surface for fuel, as often as its stinted heath would hold the turf together and enable it to burn. To hide the nakedness of the land, part of it has been planted with firs or pine, but why in planting it they did not study beauty or utility I know not; it would puzzle any one to account for its zig-zag direction. This oddity in the way of ornamental plantation, and another patch or two of firs in the south-east corner of the parish, are our only plantations. Neither oak, ash, elm, birch, nor any of the deciduous tribes have been attempted, though more likely to succeed on a low maritime coast than pine, which only comes to perfection on more elevated grounds, and at a greater distance from the sea. Fossil oaks have frequently been found, and of great dimensions; and *Oaken-head*, (the name of a farm adjoining these plantations,) would indicate that oak, natural or planted, once flourished there.

The sea, at some distant period, it is manifestly seen, covered all the low lands of Drainie. As it retired it left behind a beach or strand of polished water-worn stones, now from eight to twenty feet higher than the surface of the present arable fields; and this high beach not only guards as it were the opening on the north between the Causea and Coulard hills, but extends on the east from Lossiemouth to the lake of Spynie. The mass of water-worn stones, hurled together between Canal bridge and Kay's bridge, is perhaps the greatest of its kind in Britain.

Coast.—On the east, fronting Spey's Bay, the coast is flat and low; the sea at ebb in high tides recedes a mile from the river

Lossie, and touches or closes with it at high-water. The greatest depth of water on the Bar at spring-tides is ten feet, in ordinary tides sometimes less than eight. The unfortunate mariner that is overtaken by the storm, and who, in hopes of saving his life, runs his ship ashore, or is driven on it by the tempest at low water, must inevitably perish. From the violence of the surf which lashes this shallow coast in every northern storm, no ship can live, nor boat give aid or assistance. The decks are swept of every living soul, and the vessel itself, if it holds together, digs its own grave in the shifting sand, and in a few days disappears from human view. Such has been the fate of too many. Scarcely a year passes that does not tell the mournful tale. I cannot assign the cause, why more ships have been lost in Spey's Bay since the erection of the light-house on the opposite coast at Tarbet point, than ever were lost in the same number of years, previous to its erection. On the northern side of this parish, the coast is bold and rocky. A reef or chain of hidden rock, a mile distant from the shore, runs parallel to the Coulard and Causea Hills. In calm weather, this reef is visible from the neighbouring height, and its course may be traced by the black curl of the water over its surface, and in tempestuous weather by the tremendous billows that dash and break upon it. That part of the reef called the Great Skerry, is at all times visible. Providence has in mercy lifted the head of this reef above the waters, as if to warn mariners of the hidden rocks that flank it right and left. On this fatal reef, more than forty vessels are known to have been wrecked within these fifty years past, and many no doubt have shared the same disastrous fate, that never have been known or heard of. That the light-house at Tarbet point on the opposite coast is of some use, as it guards the mariner against mistaking the Dornoch Ferry for Cromarty Bay, is admitted, but not one vessel ever was or will be lost in the Dornoch Frith for ten that has been and in all probability will be, lost on and near the Skerries. There is a talk of erecting a light-house on the Moray side of the Frith.

Abstract of Meteorological Observations taken at Lossiemouth in the years 1836, 1837, and 1838, furnished by Dr William Geddes, E. I. C. S.

	Temperature.										Winds.																						Rain and snow, with									
	Minimum.			9 A. M.			9 P. M.				S. S. W., S., S. S. E.		S. E.		E. S. E., E., E. N. E.		N. E.		N. N. E., N., N. N. W.		N. W.		W. N. W., W., W. S. W.		S. W.		Calm.		Variable.		S. S. E. winds.		E. N. E. winds.		N. N. W. winds.		W. S. W. winds.		Total.		Total of rain and snow.
	Highest observ. registered.	Lowest ditto.	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.	Mean range.	Mean temperature.	9 A.M.	9 P.M.	9 A.M.	9 P.M.	9 A.M.	9 P.M.	9 A.M.	9 P.M.	9 A.M.	9 P.M.	9 A.M.	9 P.M.	9 A.M.	9 P.M.	9 A.M.	9 P.M.	9 A.M.	9 P.M.	9 A.M.	9 P.M.	9 A.M.	9 P.M.	Rain.	Snow	Rain.	Snow	Rain.	Snow	Rain.	Snow	Rain.	Snow	
Jan.	40	12	28.50	45	16	34	44	18	33.75	5.50	31.25	5	3	7	6	2	3	1	1	1	0	2	3	10	9	3	4	0	2	0	1	2	4	1	2	1	1	1	3	5	10	15
Feb.	45	4	27.75	49	15	34	47	15	34	25	30.87	6	2	3	6	2	3	0	1	2	0	3	3	7	7	3	3	2	2	0	1	2	2	1	2	0	1	2	2	5	10	15
Mar.	43	16	30.25	50	27	37.25	47	26	36	7	33.75	4	2	3	2	3	6	1	1	3	2	1	2	13	11	2	2	1	2	0	1	2	1	1	4	1	2	3	4	8	10	18
Apr.	47	24	33.25	55	34	41.50	49	32	39	7.25	37.37	2	3	3	4	6	5	2	2	3	6	6	5	6	2	2	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	5	2	1	1	2	2	11	9	20
May	51	30	39.75	65	40	49	58	36	45.50	9.25	44.37	1	2	3	5	9	8	1	4	4	3	7	4	3	3	2	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	6	1	3	2	2	0	13	3	16
June	62	35	47	70	47	56.75	68	43	50.	9.75	51.87	1	4	2	4	7	7	1	0	5	4	4	3	4	3	3	2	1	0	1	1	2	0	4	0	4	0	7	0	15	0	15
July	57	44	50	74	51	59.83	72	49	56,16	9.33	54.	1	1	1	3	5	4	1	2	4	5	5	3	5	7	8	4	2	1	0	1	2	0	3	0	5	0	10	0	22	0	22
Aug.	58	33	46.75	67	48	57.33	63	44	54.60	10.58	52 66	1	2	4	4	2	5	2	2	3	3	4	4	9	6	5	2	1	2	0	1	3	0	4	0	6	0	6	0	18	0	18
Sept	57	33	44	62	44	53.27	60	39	50.26	9.27	48.63	5	4	3	3	3	5	2	2	2	2	4	3	3	4	6	4	2	2	0	1	3	0	3	1	4	0	6	0	16	1	17
Oct.	57	25	40.60	60	32	48.16	58	30	45.83	7.56	44.38	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	5	7	12	11	4	3	2	2	0	0	3	0	1	1	4	1	8	1	16	3	19
Nov.	46	20	33.16	58	30	38.66	48	26	38.16	5.50	35.90	2	0	4	4	2	3	0	1	1	1	4	7	10	8	4	3	3	3	0	0	3	0	1	1	3	1	7	1	14	3	17
Dec.	46	24	34.50	50	31	40.25	50	30	39,75	5.75	37.37	3	2	5	2	3	3	3	3	2	1	2	3	9	11	2	6	1	0	1	0	2	0	3	3	3	1	7	1	15	5	20
											41.86	34	27	39	45	45	53	15	20	32	29	47	47	91	82	45	36	15	18	2	8	29	7	33	17	37	17	59	13	158	54	212

The minimum observations of temperature in the above table were noted from a registering thermometer exposed to the open air at night, and those at 9 A. M. and 9 P. M. were taken from another instrument (both on Fahrenheit's scale) suspended in the open air, with a northern exposure. The mean range of temperature in each month is that formed between the averages of the minima and of the observations at 9 A. M.; and the mean temperature of each month, as well as of the year, has been derived from taking the average between these two points. From other sources of information, however, it would appear, that the mean of the maxima of temperature ranges throughout the year from one to two degrees above the average heat of 9 A. M., and, accordingly, it is believed, that the mean annual temperature of Lossiemouth may be considered about 43°. In the table, no day has been considered fair, in which any rain or snow has fallen throughout the twenty-four hours.

Minerals, Rocks, and Caverns.—In the Coulard Hill, between Lossiemouth and Stotfield, there are appearances of lead, said to be of the very best quality. It is found in detached masses imbedded in the rocks, which are of fluor spar. Dr Lewis Gordon, in the last Statistical Account of this parish, informs us, that some adventurers from England expended in his time more than L. 500, but could discover no vein of ore worth working; but had it been worth working, the ignorant dissipated fellow employed to make the trial, was capable of spending a much greater sum to no purpose. Very near this, there is a vein of limestone, and a powerful spring of fresh water, issuing forth at low ebb tides near the old Stotfield harbour. The whole range of rock along the Causea shore is one uninterrupted mass of freestone, lying on horizontal strata differing in thickness, hardness, and colour. The ornamental hewn work of all the great mansions in this and the neighbouring counties, has been taken from the Causea quarries, and Thames Street in London was at one time paved with stones from Lossiemouth.

Gerardine's cave, in Elgin charters denominated Holy-Manhead, probably the abode of a hermit, was about twelve feet square. It was ornamented with a Gothic door and window, and commanded a long but solitary prospect of the eastern coast. Its Gothic door and window were demolished about sixty years ago by a drunken sailor, and the whole cave has since been scooped out by quarriers.

The Causea caverns, caves, and fissures are so numerous, as to bid defiance to the wanton spoiler. There, the violence of winds and waves has cut the softer parts of the rock into many fantastic forms resembling caves, arches, and pillars. Those immediately west of the village of Causea, are truly beautiful. The descent to them is by a safe and gently sloping road, to a beautiful verdant lawn, bounded on three of its sides by perpendicular rocks from 60 to 100 feet high, as smooth and regular as the walls of a garrison. The entrance to this lawn, through a natural arch, its stately pillars and lofty alcoves, repay the trouble of visiting them. No sooner does the stranger enter, than the gulls, daws, and pigeons, which nestle on the ledges of these rocks, and are usually annoyed by the little urchins who frequent them, take wing. Of this wonderful scenery, the Gull's or Gow's Castle, as it is called, is to the young the most attractive. It stands, a monument of former times, isolated and detached from the rocks of which it once formed a part, and tells us

of the destructive power of those warring elements which it has so long withstood; but its fall, though distant, is approaching; the slow consuming influence of wind and tide has not only narrowed but perforated its base, and its heavy, flat, projecting top threatens, by its weight, to accelerate its ruin. On the western side of the lawn is a cave, once the cell of a hermit, but degraded to a stable by Sir Robert Gordon, who concealed his horses in it in the Rebellion of 1715. On this verdant vale, parties sit down to pick-nick dinners, where all the rarities of the season are gathered together. Everything around them contributes to their pleasure, the novelty of the scene, the different plants of variegated colours, creeping or hanging in festoons from the rocks, the noise and flight of frightened gulls, daws, and pigeons, the hoarse murmur of the sea, and the melody of song, cheer and gladden every heart. Farther west the rocks are more lofty and rugged, the caverns numerous, and all looking to the sea; some of them are yet unexplored, and it would be difficult and dangerous to explore them. To visit these, gentlemen and ladies, pleased with the scenery, and more pleased with each other, scramble hand in hand over slippery rocks, and rounded boulders, at the risk of breaking their necks and limbs.

II.—Civil History.

Of the history of Moray, little is known prior to the reign of Malcolm II. and that little only records incessant insurrections and rebellions. Of Danish or Norwegian origin, the Picts of Moray hated and resisted the Celtic dynasty. In the southern provinces, the Picts, subdued by force, or bribed by favour, were sooner reconciled than the northern, who were at a greater distance, and feared them less. The murders of Malcolm, Duff, and Duncan, attest that they never scrupled as to the means of attaining their end. Unable of themselves to regain the throne, or preserve their independence, they called in the aid, as they had often formerly done, of their brethren the Danes. This called down the vengeance of Malcolm II. III. and IV. The punishment, though deserved, was severe. To weaken the power of the turbulent barons, some were killed, others banished to the south, and their estates confiscated. The bishoprie of Moray, the fourth in order, was then erected, and the strong fortresses of Kinnedder, Spynie, and Plewland, since called Gordonston, were put into the peaceable but unwarlike hands of bishops, of whom Gregory, who held them anno 1120, was first Bishop of Moray.

By the policy of Malcolm, the address of Gregory, the superstition of Queen Margaret, and cunning of her confessor, Turgot, the Murriffs were deprived of their real estates. The bishops, into whose hands the real estates came, might well be satisfied. It laid the foundation of their future power and more ample revenue. The lands of Kinnedder were held by these church dignitaries, from the time of Queen Margaret, in uninterrupted succession, till the time of Patrick Hepburn, uncle to Earl Bothwell, who alienated them to the Earl of Moray, bastard brother to Queen Mary; his heirs assigned them to Brodie of Brodie, and Brodie's to Mr Brander, whose heir enjoys them. Gordonston, about the same unhappy period, fell to the Marquis of Huntly, as his portion of church plunder.

Antiquities. — Adjoining to the churchyard, in the centre of which the foundation of the ancient church of Kinnedder may still be traced, stood the once stronghold of Kinnedder, called the Castle, and now, by way of dignifying it, called the Bishop's palace. Archibald, tenth Bishop of Moray, is the only bishop of whom it is recorded that he made the Castle of Kinnedder his place of constant residence. Before the cathedral was fixed at Spynie, the bishops lived sometimes at Birnie, sometimes at Spynie, and sometimes at Kinnedder. They got the credit, to which they were not entitled, of building these strongholds. They might have repaired them; but they were built by the Celtic or Pictish barons, who lived many centuries before a bishop was heard of. The great tower of Kinnedder was defended by two walls, about fifty paces from each other, each wall having its ditch in front, and, what was more uncommon, an earthen rampart, from eight to ten feet wide, and as many feet high, behind each wall. The space enclosed comprehended about two acres, the form approaching to a hexagon; the outer wall was defended at each angle by a small tower. These small towers were square, solid, and projecting six feet beyond the wall. They were distant from each other about two casts of a javelin, and the ascent to them was from the rampart by a strong but rough stone stair. The storehouses and barracks stood directly east of the great tower; they were vaulted and grated; the walls four feet thick at bottom; and the tradition is that they were fire-proof. What remained of the doors and windows, and the hewn stones found among the rubbish, shows that the work was of the Gothic order, and highly ornamented in its day. This part of the fortress, having

the outer wall six feet thick, (from which there was a sally-port) formed the hypotheneuse of an obtuse-angled triangle, the two sides of which were sixty feet each in length. The great tower, which stood in the centre, after being deserted by the bishops, and taken possession of by owls, bats, and daws, was, from its great height, appropriated as a belfry to the ancient adjoining church of Kinnedder. The fortifications on the east were guarded by a morass, and two ditches, one of twenty-four, and a little beyond it, another of twelve feet wide, the drawbridge of which was lately discovered in making a drain. The horn-work, a hollow tower to defend these ditches, was converted by the bishops to a pigeon-house. The wall on this east side seems to have been about sixteen feet high; parts of it and of the small towers yet remain, and very lately, part of the earthen rampart. On the north, west, and south sides, which were probably more strongly fortified, the whole is now completely effaced. The Rev. Lachlan Shaw, the historian of Moray, who saw them in 1734, tells us that, in his time, the foundations of the castle and surrounding fortifications were so entire, as to be easily traced; but since then, these walls have been levelled with the ground; the earthen ramparts have been thrown into the ditches which fronted them, the ploughshare has passed over it, and the place that knew this stronghold of the Murriffs knows it no more. The labourers who filled up the ditches were astonished at the quantity of ashes and oak charcoal, and number of broken urns and human bones they met with, in levelling these earthen ramparts, more especially under their foundations. The reports of witnesses yet living induced the present incumbent to examine more minutely what yet remained of the earthen rampart, and which was about to be removed. Under the foundations he found the graves closely packed. On removing the earth, there appeared first peat or turf ashes, then within the rude stone chest, oak-charcoal, and some fragments of human bones. The stone chests were scorched, and blackened with the fire by which the bodies had been burnt. When the stone chests were of hammer-dressed flags, the ashes were as smooth as if they had passed through a sieve, and were packed in it, and the charcoal laid on the cover, but not a vestige of bone among the ashes. All that could be found among the oak charcoal was sometimes a tooth, and sometimes small remains of the harder bones. Where the graves were of rude construction, consisting of common undressed stones, the peat or turf ashes were more

abundant, the oak charcoal was scanty, and the larger and harder bones, particularly the vertebræ, not half consumed.

I know not what our Pictish ancestors may have done, but it is certain the Celts did burn, and burn with oak. The Druids considered oak as the symbol of Deity; their altars were strewed with its leaves and encircled with its branches, and chaplets of oak were worn by the priests and by the people on all their religious ceremonies, none of which were more solemn than the funeral rites paid to the dead. That the Celts were expelled from Kinnedder and all the lowlands of Moray by the Picts, is admitted; and I think it must also be admitted, that the Celts built the fortress of Kinnedder, from which, after much slaughter, they were driven by the Picts, and the Picts in their turn expelled by Malcolm II. or III., and Kinnedder granted as a fief to the Bishops of Moray. The numerous graves running parallel to the wall, and covered by the high earthen rampart, which, till lately, never appear to have been disturbed, prove the ancient castle and fortification to have been the work of the Celts, or of the Picts, if they also burned their dead; but clearly disprove the claim of any Bishop of Moray having built either the Great Tower, or surrounding fortifications. Some, however, from the numerous fragments of urns found in Kinnedder, suppose the fortification to have been Roman, and an outpost of Burghead (Ptoroton).

"*Warlike Hills.*"—These are a range of artificial, conical earthen mounds, at nearly equal distances, and from twenty to thirty feet high, erected on the summits of the Causea hills, which stretch their perpendicular rocks on the north, along the Moray Frith, and raise their heads on the south, above the long extended plains of Moray. Their name denotes the end for which they were constructed. Commanding a distant prospect both by sea and land, they were used as telegraphic signal-posts. When the Celts possessed the land, they announced by lighted fires a hostile invasion by northern Celts or Danes. When the Pictish or Norwegian race possessed the land, they answered the same purpose, by summoning their armed warlike vassals to the field, or served to direct, through the Moray Frith, the course of the fleets of their brethren the Danes, who might come to their aid, or extend their conquests.

Eminent Characters.—After the establishment of Episcopacy in Moray, the bishops were the only proprietors of Kinnedder and Ogston, from the time of Malcolm II. down to that of the unfortunate Mary. But excepting the ruins of the old church of Kin-

nedder and its ancient cross, which yet stands, there is not a stone, obelisk, or remains of any ecclesiastical or public work, to tell of their existence.

Sir Robert Gordon, first of Gordonston, claims a niche among the historians of the north. He is author of the History of the Family and Earldom of Sutherland. He was second son of the Earl of Sutherland. He was great-grandfather to Sir Robert Gordon, who claimed the honour and titles of Sutherland, in opposition to the female claimant, the present Duchess. Little did he imagine, while composing his ingenious and elaborate history of their pedigree, that he was undermining the claim of his own great-grandson. To counterbalance the weighty authority of this history, Sir William Gordon, son of the claimant, wrote the history of *Joannes Ferrarius*, whose annals of Scotland were more favourable to his father's pretensions, and endeavoured to raise that obscure monk of the Abbey of Kinloss to the dignity of an historian superior to Sir Robert Gordon, his own ancestor, the historian of Sutherland; but Sir William's history of Ferrarius, as a partial pleading, has sunk into obscurity.

Of all the family of Gordonston, Robert, son of Lodvic, commonly known as Sir Robert the warlock, has been longest remembered. Educated at home in all the liberal sciences then known, he travelled on the continent, and made himself master of many secrets in natural history unknown to his illiterate countrymen, whom he took pleasure in frightening and astonishing. It was believed he was educated in Italy in the *School of the Black Art.* Many stories are told of his proficiency therein, which space does not allow us to recite here.

III.—Population.

A rent-roll at Gordonston, taken about the year 1666, shows that from forty to fifty families lived on what would now be considered but a small farm. The return to Dr Webster gave 1174. The population in 1791 amounted to 1040; in the year 1821 to 1060; and in 1831 to 1296, whereof there were on

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Gordonston, estate of Sir William G. Cumming, Bart.	221	205	426
Kinnedder, estate of Colonel James Brander,	68	54	122
Stotfield village, the property of Colonel James Brander,	67	101	168
Lossiemouth, exclusive of Seatown,	178	257	435
Seatown of Fishertown of Lossiemouth,	70	75	145
			1296
			1060
Increase of population since the census of 1821,			236

Population in 1841, 1517

In the villages of Lossiemouth and Stotfield, there reside 17 masons, 7 shoemakers, 5 house-carpenters, 6 tailors, 3 coopers, 3 blacksmiths, 4 bakers, 3 waggoners, 1 boat-carpenter, 2 butchers, 4 grocers, 7 British spirit-retailers, and 1 foreign spirit-retailer.

IV.—Industry.

About the year 1800, the mania for augmenting farms spread from south to north, and in 1809 the farms in this parish were reduced from the number of 68 to 38. Only three or four tenants in the whole parish of Drainie now remain on the farms occupied by their fathers at the date of the old Statistical Acount. Little discernment was manifested in the choice of their successors. The highest bidders, men without capital, and many of them without skill or capital, were preferred. These were perfectly satisfied with the terms and duration of the lease, and well they might, for before the expiration of it, four-fifths of them were bankrupts and rouped out. The war-prices of grain and cattle tumbling down at the peace of Amiens, no doubt accelerated their ruin; but their own folly and extravagance had just as powerful an effect. The old butts and bens, with kitchen and spens, were abolished, and mansions with dining-rooms, drawing-rooms, and parlours, which they could not furnish, or afford to furnish, were erected in their stead. The principal proprietor was then a minor, and but heir to an entailed estate. When he came to majority, he found himself loaded with a vast expense for these buildings, and the abortive attempt of draining the lake of Spynie.

Agriculture has made advances, though slowly, towards improvement. At the date of the last Statistical Account, turnips and artificial grasses were cultivated on a very narrow scale. White corn crops succeeded each other till the field became exhausted, which was then allowed to rest by running into grass, the natural product of the field. The common rotation at present is, 1*st*, fallow or green crop; 2*d*, corn; 3*d* and 4*th*, grass; 5*th* and 6*th*, corn. Too frequently beans or pease are substituted for green crop or fallow, not from ignorance but from necessity, as the poor farmer has not capital to wait a distant though more ample return. Only one farmer, Mr John Stephen of Coulard Bank, adopts the rule of never sowing two white corn crops in succession. Sea-weed is, at times, got in abundance and with little trouble, though in general not without much labour.

There are no complete stone enclosures in the parish. When

a field is enclosed, it is done with wood, purchased at a high price, obtained as a favour, and drawn from a great distance. As little encouragement is given to draining, little in that way is done.

The number of arable acres in the parish may be about 3000, the gross rental L. 4500; farms 38, ploughs 70. Two of the farms exceed 200 acres, five exceed 100 acres, and twelve exceed 80 acres.

Fisheries.—In the villages of Stotfield and Lossiemouth, there are forty-six families of fishermen, consisting of seventy men and twenty-five boys. These put to sea forty-five fishing-boats, nineteen of which are for herring, and twenty-six for white-fish. These twenty-six are of two sizes; the larger size is used during the winter and spring months, and the smaller during the summer. They belong to thirteen crews, who also man the nineteen largest class of boats during the herring-fishery, which commences about the middle of July, and ends about the 5th September.

The average income of each able seamen, exclusive of outlay for boats, nets, and fishing-tackle, may be from L. 90 to L. 100, besides an ample share of fish for food. Cod and herring are let for the season to curers at home; cod at 3d. or 4d. each fish, and herring at 10s. to 11s. 6d. per cran. Haddocks are generally sold at Elgin, or through the county, fresh, smoked, or stone-dried.

Shipping Trade of Lossiemouth.—The vessels frequenting this harbour are of the smaller class, rarely above seventy tons register, unless with a ballast cargo. This is owing to the want of water, which seldom exceeds nine feet at stream tides.

The number of vessels which entered inwards during the year ending January 1838, was 106, registering 4816 tons, navigated by 352 men. The number outwards during the same period with cargoes and part cargoes was 44, registering 1918 tons, navigated by 144 men.

The imports, about 4500 tons of English coal; 1000 tons of Scotch coal; 400 tons bones and bone-dust; 140 tons of bark; 150 tons salt; some hundred empty barrels, and other fishing stores for curing herring and cod-fish; and a small cargo of merchant goods.

The exports were 4243 quarters of grain, 2000 barrels of herring, 200 barrels of cod-fish, and three cargoes of plantation timber.

Steam-vessels from London and Leith, trading through the Moray Frith, call off this place during the summer season, and when

weather permits, land and ship goods, passengers, and luggage. The imports generally are merchant goods, chiefly foreign and colonial.

The exports are live-stock, fresh provisions, agricultural produce, salmon, pickled cod and herring, making together about 3276 barrels bulk of five cubic feet each. The English coal imported is used for family use, and carried to Elgin and the adjoining country; the Scotch coal for breweries, distilleries, limekilns, and brickworks; the grain goes to the different ports of the kingdom; the herring to the London, Liverpool, and Irish markets, and occasionally a small cargo to Hamburgh and Stettin.

V.—Parochial Economy.

Elgin, to which there is an excellent toll-road, was, till the introduction of steam-boats, almost the only mart for the little traffic of this parish. There is a daily post. The runner and postmaster are paid by Government.

A new and useful harbour is in course of being formed under the superintendence of Mr James Bremner of Wick, civil-engineer. The outer and inner basins are excavated from the solid rock, and, at ordinary tides, will admit vessels drawing fifteen feet water.

Ecclesiastical State.—A new and elegant church was built in 1823. It is centrical for the parish, but too far from Lossiemouth and Stotfield, where the population is rapidly increasing, and at present constitutes the majority of inhabitants. The church may accommodate 700. Most of the sittings are free, and rent only exacted where there is a competition for front seats. The manse, though old, is in decent and comfortable condition. The glebe is six acres in extent, and would rent at L. 9 or L. 10 Sterling. The stipend is 15 chalders. There are no chapels of ease, nor chapels of any denomination. The parish church is well attended. There are but few Dissenters, and these attend some of the Seceding or Dissenting chapels at Elgin.

Education.—Education is at a very low ebb. The parochial school is on the western part of the parish, nearly three miles from the populous villages of Lossiemouth and Stotfield, where a school is much needed. Till some endowment is obtained for a teacher, there, no man properly qualified will accept of the office. The parochial schoolmaster has the maximum salary.

One charitable institution deserves to be recorded. It took

its rise from a very calamitous event which befel the fishing crews of Stotfield, on Thursday the 25th December 1806, when no less than 21 seamen lost their lives, leaving 17 widows and 47 children unprovided for,—besides aged parents, and other relatives depending for their support on the labours of the deceased. Collections to the amount of L. 1075, 13s. were received, and a committee of gentlemen appointed to take charge of the distribution. They allowed each widow L. 3, and each child under fourteen years of age L. 1, 10s. half yearly. By the deaths of those originally appointed, the charge devolved on John Jack, Esq., merchant in Elgin, to whose accuracy, mildness, and firmness, in this business, the parish of Drainie is much indebted. His record of the annual distributions will be preserved along with the parochial registers. From the fall of interest, the allowance to the widow has been, since 1834, reduced to L. 1, 10s. annually. Only L.35 Sterling remains at present, and, after a lapse of thirty-two years, there are still eight of the widows surviving.

Poor.— The number of poor on the roll of session is confined as much as possible below 40. The sick, infirm, and aged only are put on the permanent list. Few in the rural district claim sessional aid; but in the villages of Lossiemouth and Stotfield, the number would be tripled, if all who asked relief obtained it. Were applications for relief from all disposed to make them, listened to, the rental of the parish in a short time would not suffice to satisfy the demands. The average annual amount of church collections for charitable purposes is L. 27, 16s. 9¾d.; donations for the last year, L. 7; interest of money, (L. 320;) and mort-cloth dues, L. 16, 18s.

February 1842.