

ing parishes. To those who have a privilege of firing, peats cost from 1s. to 1s. 3d. per cart load, exclusive of carriage; to others they cost from 2s. to 2s. 6d. English coals are procured at Banff at from 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 2d. per imperial barrel.

Drawn up by the incumbent while parochial schoolmaster of Alvah, in 1837. Revised February 1842.

PARISH OF FORDYCE.*

PRESBYTERY OF FORDYCE, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.

THE REV. JOHN INNES, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—THIS parish appears, from the earliest times, to have borne its present name. The most satisfactory account of its derivation is that which derives it from the two Gaelic words, *Fuar* (cold) and *Deas* (south); so that *Fuar-deas*, or, as it is now commonly written, *Fordyce*, would signify “a cold south.” This derivation is very descriptive of the character of the parish,—the south part of it chiefly consisting of low, wet, or moorish lands, far inferior, both in point of productiveness and climate, to that which lies along the sea-coast. That the name is of Celtic origin is farther evident from the etymology of various other places in the parish, which are unquestionably to be traced to such a root, such as *Auchmore*, the great field or declivity; *Kindrought* or *Keandrochit*, the head or end of the bridge; *Tillynaught*, the turn or ridge of the hill; *Glassaugh*, the gray haugh; *Durn*, round like a clenched fist, &c.

The parish, including the whole of the *quoad sacra* parish of Portsoy, is of a quadrangular form, irregular, however, and approaching nearly to that of a triangle. Its greatest breadth, in a straight line along the sea-coast, is 6 miles; its least, at the southern extremity, 2 miles; its greatest length, from the mouth of the Burn of Boyne to the top of the Knock Hill, 8 miles; and its least, from Logie Head to the same point, 7 miles. The num-

* Drawn up by the Rev. Alexander Reid, Minister of Portsoy.

ber of square miles in the whole parish is about 28. It is bounded on the north, by the Moray Frith; on the west, by Cullen, Rathven, and Deskford; on the south, by Grange and Ordiquhill; and on the east, by Ordiquhill and Boyndie.

The general appearance of the parish is irregular, and presents considerable variety of hill and dale. In its centre rise the hills of Durn and Fordyce, extending continuously, and in a crescent form, from north-east to south-west; while the Knock Hill, in the south, rears its head still more majestically, and is seen as a landmark from a considerable distance at sea. The height of the Knock is from 1200 to 1400 feet above the level of the sea, and that of Durn about 700 feet. On the top of the former, there is a bank of peat-moss, extending to the depth of ten or twelve feet, of comparatively little value, from its inaccessibility to carts.

The coast is rather bold and rocky. It is intersected by two bays, that of Portsoy, where there is a safe and commodious harbour for ships, and that of Sandend, where there is a sandy beach of about half a mile in length, with a small creek at the Redhyth Point, in which vessels of very light tonnage occasionally moor. The principal headlands are the East and West Heads, so called from their relative positions to Portsoy, and Logie Head, at the western extremity of the parish. There are several caves, which run more or less into the rocks; but none of them are of any great extent. The chief of these are, the Dove Cave, Kitty's Cave, the Bow Cave, and Cloutty's Cave, between Portsoy and Sandend, and Findlater Cave close by the old Castle of the same name.

Meteorology.—The temperature of the parish, from its contiguity to the sea, is perhaps less variable, upon the whole, than that of others possessing a different exposure. But, from its very position in this respect, it is more exposed to the winds blowing between the north-west and north-east points of the compass, than parishes lying in the interior of the country. The climate is very salubrious.

Hydrography.—The only streams of any importance are, the Burn of Boyne, forming the eastern boundary of the parish,—the Burn of Durn, and the Burn of Fordyce, the former emptying itself into the sea at Portsoy, and the latter into the bay at Sandend. In the neighbourhood of Portsoy, there are several springs of a chalybeate character. John Legg's well is the most famed in this respect, and is resorted to in the summer months by

many of the inhabitants, as well as by strangers, who come from the country for change of air, and the benefit of sea-bathing. There was formerly a loch called Soy, lying in the neighbourhood of, and giving name to, Portsoy; but it is not now larger than a mill-pond, and has, for many years, been converted to this useful purpose.

*Geology and Mineralogy.**—This parish has been long known to afford to the geologist much that is interesting. Dr Hutton, the talented founder of the Plutonic school, early drew attention to it; and Professor Jameson of Edinburgh, in his volume of "Mineralogical Travels," has detailed, at considerable length, some of its most important geological phenomena. Serpentine is the rock which has given to it its chief celebrity, and which is known as an ornamental stone, not merely over Britain, but on the continent. In the palace of Versailles, it forms some of the chimney-pieces, and is known by the name of Scottish marble,—the name which it most commonly receives from the parishioners. It is now, however, seldom wrought on a large scale; but there is an intelligent lapidary in Portsoy (Mr Abraham Clark) who forms it still into a variety of small ornamental pieces, such as obelisks, urns, &c. and who always keeps a large collection of minerals for the inspection of the curious.

From the celebrity of this parish, in a geological view, we shall notice, as fully as possible, the rocks which occur along the coast, commencing at the mouth of the Burn of Durn at Portsoy, and advancing westward. The first rock which presents itself is a mass of serpentine, about 300 feet thick, passing into a syenite, which, with a few strata of hornblende, and limestone with granite veins, forms the only rock, till we arrive at the other side of the harbour. The syenite is in general large, granular, and, in a few instances, contains crystals of hypersthene. The granite is also large and granular, and seems to be synchronous with the syenite. We come next to a bed of white marble, of no value, however, as an ornamental stone. It is succeeded by a mass of white felspar rock, very compact, which passes in many places into serpentine. An alternating system of mica-slate and quartz rock, with a bed of limestone, now presents itself, and forms all the coast cliff up to the chief deposit of serpentine. The predominating qualities of

* The writer begs here to acknowledge his obligations to Robert J. H. Cunningham, Esq. author of *Essay on the Geology of the Lothians, &c.* who kindly supplied the materials of this article, after a minute survey of the parish in 1839.

this serpentine, the greatest breadth of which seems to be about 500 yards, are red and green; and, by the different modes of their association, are produced those numerous and beautiful varieties of this rock which have been so universally admired. Veins of precious or noble serpentine (so called from its translucency) frequently occur, also others of calcareous spar, asbestos, amianthus, and, in a very few instances, hydrate of magnesia. Diallage, schiller spar, and magnetic iron ore, are also to be found in small quantities.

As we proceed along the coast, we find strata of mica-slate and clay-slate, with occasional veins of quartz, constituting almost the whole line to the lime-kilns of Redhyth; near to which gneiss (a rock which is but of rare occurrence in Banffshire), presents itself for a short distance, and contains numerous crystals of precious garnet. Adjoining to this is to be seen a small deposit of red sandstone conglomerate, which rests unconformably upon the older rocks, and, like the other red sandstones and red conglomerates of Scotland, is entirely composed of fragments derived from them. The geognostical position of this rock is the bottom of the great independent coal formation; and a well exposed junctional section is afforded near the coast. Large veins of calcareous spar are at some points to be detected. Between Redhyth and Craithie Point, we meet with various large beds of crystalline limestone. It is in general connected with clay-slate; but, from the fissured state of the strata, appears to be of little value as an ornamental stone. At the old Castle of Findlater is to be seen a quartz rock of rather an interesting character, while, between this and Logie Head, many other well-marked examples of quartz and mica slate are to be found.

Returning to the mouth of the burn of Durn, and proceeding eastward, we first meet eccentrically contorted strata of mica-slate, containing a few beds of marble; so mixed, however, with argillaceous earth, as to make them useless for ornamental purposes. Stratified rocks of the same general description form the whole coast to the mouth of the burn of Boyne, where a large mass of distinctly stratified limestone comes into view, and, in some places, shows most interesting contortions. It may be traced a considerable way up the bed of the stream, and forms a part of one of those great bands of limestone, which traverse the county in a north-east and south-west direction, and which, in many instances, may be followed by the geologist into

the wilds of the Grampian hills. From the appearance of this limestone, there is some reason to believe, that were it quarried to sufficient depth, it might be of value, and used as a marble. The most interesting rock, however, on this side, is a beautiful display of graphic granite, so called from its exhibiting when polished, characters in many respects resembling those of the Hebrew alphabet. It lies half way between Portsoy and the mouth of the Boyne; and, next to the serpentine, has made this place so well known to the geologist. No one having the opportunity should neglect to visit this rare and interesting rock. Imbedded in it are found in some places large crystals of schorl, and also mica in firm radiating masses.

Throughout the interior of the parish, there is but little opportunity for minute geology; there being an almost universal and thick covering of alluvium to obscure the subjacent rocks. Careful examination, however, shows that the most of the interior is composed of those variations of trap, which are comprehended under the names of common greenstone, syenitic greenstone, hypersthene greenstone, and augitic greenstone. Quartz rock forms the round-backed eminence of the Durn hill. It is distinctly stratified, and is inclined at a high angle. Boulders of syenite, of considerable size, are to be found around the foot of the Durn and Knock hills, and in some other parts of the parish. The soil is partly a strong clay, partly a clay loam, and partly a light loam; and generally highly productive along the sea-coast, but cold and wet towards the south.

Zoology.—This parish is not distinguished, at present, by any of the rarer species of animals. Its general breed of cattle is a cross between the old Banffshire and the Buchan humble breed. The pure Banffshire is now seldom to be seen.* The sheep are of the Cheviot breed, with a few of the small black-faced.

* In 1770 a remarkable murrain broke out amongst black-cattle in this parish, to which it may not be uninteresting here to refer. It is still remembered by some of the oldest inhabitants, and is spoken of as "the Plague." It is said to have been imported into Portsoy, by means of some tainted hay brought over in a vessel from Holland, (where it was raging at the time,) and given as food to the cattle here. It produced great excitement in the place, and soon attracted the attention of the government, who, to prevent the contagion from spreading, sent down orders to have all the black-cattle, within a certain distance, immediately slaughtered on their showing any symptoms of the disease. The owners, however, were indemnified by the government, according to the value set upon their cattle by judges appointed for that purpose. The place of slaughter is still pointed out; and for a season, a party of soldiers was stationed at Portsoy to enforce a kind of quarantine in regard to all the cattle connected with it. The first appearance of the disease was heaviness, watering of the eyes, and heat in the horns. This was succeeded by flux, which soon terminated in death.

There is not only an abundant supply of all the common kinds of sea fish, but salmon is to be had regularly in its season; there being a bag-net station for this fishing near the mouth of the burn of Boyne. At a former period, lobster-fishing was carried on to a considerable extent, by the fishermen here, as well as along the whole of this side of the Frith to Inverness; and small vessels visited the different stations on the coast, received the fish that were caught, and then proceeded with them to the London market. But nothing has now, for many years, been done in this respect, beyond a few being caught by aged fishermen, who dispose of them in the place. Crabs are found in considerable numbers; and it may be stated that, during the winter of 1838, when provisions were so high, the children of several of the poorer families derived an important part of their aliment from the common periwinkle, which is to be found so plenteously on our shores.

Botany.—One of the features of the parish most likely to strike the eye of a traveller is the want of wood. This defect, however, is in the way of being remedied. In the east part, the Earl of Seafield has a young thriving plantation of considerable extent; while a large space of waste land, contiguous to it, and lying between the burn of Boyne and the Huntly turnpike, has been enclosed and planted during the past year. The other proprietors have been adding to the ornament of the parish, and the improvement of their own properties in like manner.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There are no written records of the early history of this parish. It would seem, at least, to have been sufficiently large, comprehending originally Ordiquhill, Deskford, and Cullen. When the disjunction of these took place cannot be positively ascertained. From a decret of stipend for Fordyce in 1618, it appears to have been subsequent to that period.

Land-owners.—There are three landed proprietors, the Earl of Seafield; Sir Robert Abercromby of Birkenbog; and Arthur Duff Abercromby, Esq. of Glassaugh,—the last of whom only is resident in the parish. There are plans of the different estates in the hands of their respective proprietors. Those of the Earl of Seafield are of the oldest date, some of them not having been renewed since 1771. The last plan of the Glassaugh estate was made out in 1821; while a new survey of Birkenbog was completed only two or three years ago.

Eminent Men.—Walter Ogilvie of Redhyth and Mr George Smith,

to whom the cause of education here has been so much indebted, were both natives of this parish. The former, in 1678, bequeathed the lands of Redhyth and Meikle and Little Bogton, all within the parish, to establish bursaries at the parochial school, and at King's College, Aberdeen. They are called, from their founder, "the Ogilvie or Redhyth Bursaries." The number of bursars at the school is now, from 12 originally, raised to 17; the annual value of each bursary being $8\frac{1}{2}$ bolls of meal, L.1, 16s. 8d. in money, and L.1 for school-fees to the teacher. The term of the bursary is five years. The number at King's College, from 8 originally, is now also 17; and the annual value of each bursary is L.17 Sterling.* Mr George Smith, who was born in the village of Fordyce, having realized a considerable fortune abroad, bequeathed the greater part of it for the purposes of education in his native parish. He died on his way home from the East Indies in the end of last century. The establishment on his foundation commenced in 1801. There are at present nine bursars, each of them receiving L.25 a year for board, clothing, and education. They are all boarded with the teacher, who receives from the same fund L. 40 of annual salary, besides having had provided for him an excellent house and garden. The parochial schoolmaster has hitherto held the situation of teacher to "Smith's Bursars;" but the magistrates of Banff, who are the patrons and trustees of the establishment, have it in their power to appoint one distinct from this. The term of these bursaries is likewise five years. In addition to the above bequest, Mr Smith left L. 25 a year to the parish minister, for taking a superintendence of the youth placed upon the endowment; and also L. 1000 to aid in erecting an infirmary or hospital, either in Banff or Fordyce.

The Rev. James Stuart, late rector of Georgetown and All-Saints, South Carolina, left, besides other legacies for the advancement of education, L. 1200, to endow one bursary at the school of Fordyce, and another at that of Banff, to be enjoyed by boys of the name of Stuart. These bursaries commenced in 1810, and the presbytery of Fordyce presents to them. There are also other two small bursaries, amounting together to about L. 9, founded by the late James Murray in Butterytack, and to which the kirk-session of Fordyce presents.

In consequence of the distinguished advantages thus possessed in regard to education, many who received the elements of

* The Earl of Seafield is patron of them all.

their instruction in this parish, have afterwards acquitted themselves in a most creditable manner in the world, or are, at this moment, honourably filling stations of an important kind. Sir James Clark, presently Physician to Her Majesty, and Dr John Forbes, chief editor of the *British and Foreign Medical Review*, &c., and now Physician Extraordinary to his Royal Highness Prince Albert, were both educated at the parochial school.

Parochial Registers.—The registers of discipline have been regularly kept since 1658, and of baptisms since 1665. The marriage register does not commence till 1723, since which time it appears to have been regular. The following notice of the ministers of Fordyce, since the Reformation, is taken from one of these registers:—

Mr Gilbert Gairdn, it is said, “seldom went to the pulpit without his sword, for fear of the Papists.” Mr Patrick Darg was minister for sixty-three years. David Abercromby, deposed for drinking. William Blair, admitted in 1675, and transported to Aberdeen in 1680. James Stuart came from Inveraven in May 1681, and died in three years. Alexander Gallie came from Deskford in 1684, and died in 1715. Alexander Irvine came from Cullen in 1716, and died in 1746. James Lawtie, ordained August 1747, and died August 24th 1791. Alexander Humphrey, ordained March 8th 1792, and died February 13th 1832. John Innes, present incumbent, admitted from Ordiqhill September 6, 1832.

The following is a list of the Presbyterian ministers in Portsoy from its first erection into a preaching station in 1741:—viz. Mr John Yule, Mr James Ogilvie, Mr Thomas Mitchel, Mr Robert Ogilvie, Mr Burnet, Mr Thomas Steel, Mr Walter Chalmers, Mr Abercromby Gordon, Mr James Kelly, Mr William Grant, Mr Daniel Cruickshank, and Mr Alexander Reid, the present incumbent, who was admitted June 18, 1829.

Antiquities.—The remains of the encampment on the hill of Durn are still visible; it would appear to have been originally of considerable extent; and is most probably to be referred to the time of the Danish invasions. There are other relics which seem plainly to show that this parish had been the scene of repeated hostile feuds; some of them perhaps arising from the incursion of foreign enemies, and others from the not more welcome visits of Highland freebooters, descending on the richer plains. In addition to what is stated in proof of this in the former Statistical

Account, it may be mentioned that a tumulus was opened at Auchmore in 1828, in which was found an earthen urn, containing ashes. The urn was placed in a kind of rude coffin, formed of stones laid together for that purpose. This and the large mound raised over it would seem to indicate, that it had been a person of distinction whose ashes had been deposited here. And there is reason to believe that they may have been those of some warlike chief, who had fallen in an engagement, of which there is a tradition that it took place near to the spot. The above urn is now preserved in the museum at Banff. Within a mile of the same place, on the brae of Roseacre, in the immediate vicinity of Portsoy, no fewer than five urns have been found, containing ashes and bones. Two of them were dug up about the beginning of this century, and the other three only a few years ago, when that part of the field was being trenched over to improve its productiveness. They were all, however, broken by the workmen; but the fragments, which are still preserved, show that they would have been about twelve inches in diameter, and of a proportional depth. And in September of last year, there was turned up by the plough, on the farm of Ley, another urn, containing some remains of a similar kind. It was found placed upon a stone with a cover on the top, but was also broken. It is now likewise in the Banff museum.

The old Castle of Findlater is deserving of notice amongst the antiquities of this parish. It is the most interesting ruin within it. It stands on a peninsulated rock on the sea shore, and still evidences, that, in its day, it had been a place of considerable importance. Leslie, Bishop of Ross, describes it (although, from the tactics of modern warfare, we suspect that the description would not now hold true) as "*castrum, loci natura ita munitum, ut inexpugnabile videatur.*" Its outer, or north wall, is so built as to correspond with the face of the rock; and its windows, which appear to have been chiefly on that side, would thus look into the sea. The lower apartments, some of which are partly excavated out of the solid rock, are strongly vaulted with stone arches; and the south side of the building, which was the only one exposed to danger, appears to have consisted of a large mass of dead wall, protected by a fosse and drawbridge. Beyond this, and at about the distance of 100 yards, there had been another fosse and rampart, as an outwork to defend the castle; leaving an intermediate space large enough to exercise a considerable number of men. The stones of the buildings, which were in the

south-west corner of this area, and were probably used as stables and storehouses, have now been almost entirely removed for agricultural purposes, on the adjoining farm. The dovecot, however, on the top of the hill, still stands in a tolerable state of preservation, and continues to be used for its original purpose.

Sir Walter Ogilvie got leave, in the 18th of James II., or A. D. 1455, to fortify his Castle of Findlater with a tower and fortalice, and all other necessaries for a place of strength. It would appear to have been regularly occupied till towards the end of the reign of James VI., when it became less necessary for our nobles to seek their safety within the walls of their castles. Findlater, at that time in the possession of John Gordon, son of the Earl of Huntly, was one of the places which refused to receive Queen Mary on her royal visit to the north; and a party of six score of soldiers, sent out by the Queen to force a surrender, were one night, while lying at Cullen, surprised by him, and all of them either disarmed or slain. It soon, however, returned into the hands of its original possessors. There is an interesting tradition prevalent in the district, connected with its ceasing to be a family residence. While the lady of the castle, it is said, was one day standing at an open window holding an infant son in her arms, the child suddenly leapt from her hold, and, falling amidst the foaming waves and rocks beneath, immediately perished. The associations connected with this melancholy event were such as to make the place to be immediately after deserted. The district of Findlater, from which the castle takes its name, furnished the title of Earl of Findlater to a succession of noble proprietors. The title was first conferred on James, second Lord Ogilvie of Deskford in 1683, and continued to be enjoyed by the male heirs of his body till it became extinct in James seventh Earl, who died on the continent in 1811. The estates, together with the Seafield titles, then came into the possession of the present family through the line of a collateral female branch; Lady Margaret, eldest daughter of James fifth Earl of Findlater, having married Sir Ludovic Grant of Grant,* grandfather of the present Earl.

* May not the name Findlater be traced to a French derivation? *Fin-la-terre*, "the land's end," is an appellation that is at least descriptive of its locality, bounded as it is by the sea, and projecting farthest into it on this part of the coast. This derivation is, moreover, borne out by the circumstance of Findlater, according to the earliest accounts that we have of it, having been first in the possession of a family of the name of Sinclair. Now Sinclair is none other than the French name *St Clair* (*de sancto Claro*); and Douglas in his *Peerage* tells us that a family of this name came over with William the Conqueror from Normandy into Britain, and that two branches of that family settled in Scotland in the twelfth century.

Modern Buildings.—The present parish church of Fordyce was built in 1804, and of Portsoy in 1815. A new Roman Catholic Chapel was erected in 1829, and an Episcopalian one in the course of last year; both within the town of Portsoy. The mansion-house of Glassaugh has also been lately much enlarged and improved, and now forms one of the neatest and most commodious residences in this part of the country.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish, as given by the census taken in 1755, was 3212; in 1782, it had risen to 3425; in 1801, it amounted only (if the census has been given correctly) to 2747; in 1821, it had again reached to 3245; and in 1831, it was 3364, of whom 1578 were males, and 1786 females. The population in the towns and villages in 1831 was 2023, and in the country district, 1341. The yearly average of births for the last seven years is 70; of marriages, 20. No register of deaths has hitherto been kept.

The average number of persons under 15 years of age,	1281
between 15 and 70,	1948
above 70,	185
Population in 1841,	1722

There are only two families of independent fortune at present resident in the parish. All the proprietors have a rental far above the yearly value of L. 50.

The number of families in the parish,	761
Average number of children in each,	4½
Number of unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	77
women, including widows, upwards of 45 years of age,	191

There are 3 persons insane; 2 occasionally so; 3 fatuous and dumb; 1 dumb; and 1 deaf. With regard to the last mentioned person, it is worthy of notice, that though his hearing, which he had in his youth, is now quite gone, he can still hold a degree of converse with others, by marking the movements of their lips, and will understand most persons to a certain extent, provided they speak with deliberation, and allow him to look them in the face.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.

The number of imperial acres in the parish, which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage,	9306
The number which never have been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste or in pasture,	5960
The number of the latter that might be profitably cultivated,	670
in a state of undivided common,	1500
under wood,	1284
Total number of imperial acres,	18670

Wood.—The general kinds of trees are, Scotch fir, larch, and ash. With the exception, indeed, of a small thriving plantation of the last, in the vicinity of the old Castle of the Boyne, the Scotch fir and larch are by far the most predominant description. The plantations are duly cared for, and the young woods regularly thinned from time to time, as they require. These thinnings, however, do not realize much to the proprietor.

Rent, Wages, &c.—The average rent of arable land in the parish, per imperial acre, is 16s. 3d. Grazing an ox or cow for the summer may cost from L. 2, 10s. to L. 3; and the keep for the winter, a like sum. Grazing a full-grown sheep for a year, 7s. 6d. The ordinary rate of a labourer's wages per day in summer, without victuals, is from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 10d., and in winter, from 1s. to 1s. 4d.; a mason's from 2s. 6d. to 3s.; a wright's from 2s. to 2s. 6d.; a slater's from 2s. to 2s. 6d., with a proportional rate for the winter. When victuals are afforded, sixpence is the usual deduction made from these rates. Male farm-servants (1st class) receive, exclusive of board, from L. 6 to L. 7 in the half year; 2d class, from L. 4 to L. 5; and female servants from L. 2 to L. 2, 5s. Flax raised in the parish for domestic use may be estimated at 5s. 3d. per stone imperial, and Cheviot wool at L. 1, 1s. per do.

Husbandry.—The common breed of cattle has already been mentioned. Not a little has been done of late for its improvement by the premiums given for superior stock, both by the Banffshire Farmer Club, and the Highland Society. Since 1829 the short-horned or Teeswater bull has been introduced; and the result has been a decided advantage, both as regards size and facility of fattening. With the view also of improving the breed of horses, an enterprising farmer lately brought down several fine Clydesdale mares, both in symmetry and strength very superior to the ordinary class of the district. Nor are the improvements confined to this department of husbandry. Draining is carried on to a large extent, and with great activity. On one farm, which may be given as a specimen, there have been completed, since 1837, not less than 10,175 yards of open ditches, and 17,998 of drains, on the plan recommended by Mr Smith of Deanston, besides 1600 of march ditches, cut by the heritor. On some of the other farms the draining has been nearly to the same extent. The introduction of bone manure has been productive of great benefit; and it is now extensively used. Several new thrashing-mills have been

recently erected. The farm enclosures are but few; nor can it be said that there is not much room for improvement in regard to the farm-buildings. All the later erections, however, have been much superior to those which preceded them. The general duration of leases is nineteen years; and it is believed, that few tenants are more indulgently treated than those on the estates in this parish.

Quarries.—There are three lime quarries; one at the mouth of the burn of Boyne; another on the Glassaugh estate, near to Sandend; and a third close by that village. The last has not been much wrought for some time. There are annually produced at the first about 13,000 barrels of lime, and at the second, about 7000. There is also a quarry of beautiful quartz on the north side of the hill of Durn, from which exports are made for the use of the potteries in England. It is considered to be peculiarly suitable for this purpose, and to be much superior to the English quartz.

Fisheries.—There are ten fishing-boats in Portsoy, and seven in Sandend, with four men to each boat. When the fishermen go to a distance to the cod fishing or herring fishing, they use a larger boat, with from five to seven men. Each crew of four men pays an annual rent to the proprietor of L. 4, 3s. 4d.; for which he supplies them, if required, with a new boat every seventh year. They will realize on an average to every man, from L. 27 to L.30 annually; but the amount will be more than this, if the herring-fishing has been very successful. Salmon-fishing by the bag-net, is also carried on at a station near to the mouth of the burn of Boyne. The rent to the proprietor for the part of the coast in this parish, is L. 12, 10s. The average number of salmon caught for last two years was 147, and of grilses, 410.

Amount of Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as that can be ascertained, is as follows:—

Produce of grain of all kinds,	L. 24955
of potatoes, turnips, &c.	7362
of hay and pasture grass,	5347
of fisheries, sea and salmon,	2220*
of quarries,	1220
of flax and other miscellaneous produce,	146

Total annual value of raw produce, 41,250

Manufactories.—There is a small rope manufactory in Portsoy,

* The calculation here made is for the number of boats only belonging to the parish, and does not include any extra boats during the herring fishing.

adjoining to the premises which were formerly occupied in connection with a thread manufactory and bleachfield. There is also a small distillery; and a bone, thrashing, and saw mill, driven by the same water wheel, has lately been erected in the centre of the town. The importing of flax for spinning, which used to be to a large extent, has now entirely ceased; and a most important means of support to humble and industrious females has thus been withdrawn.

Navigation.—There are eight vessels belonging to the port of Portsoy, the whole registered tonnage of which is 556 of new measure. Scotch and English coals are the chief imports. The amount of the former for the year, from May 6, 1839, to May 6, 1840, was 3250 tons, including 200 discharged at Redhyth; and of the latter, 3500 tons. From eight to ten foreign vessels, chiefly from different parts of the Baltic, annually visit this port, bringing with them bones, and taking cargoes of herrings in return. Besides the export of herrings, grain is also frequently shipped to a large amount.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns, &c.—Portsoy is the chief market-town, at which a weekly market is held on Saturday, for the sale of the various articles of country produce. It was erected into a burgh of barony by a charter granted by Queen Mary in 1550. Its population at present is much the same as in 1831, viz. 1525. The population of the village of Fordyce, which was also made a burgh of barony in 1499, and had its charter renewed in 1592 to Menzies of Durn, is 212; of the fishing village of Sandend, 203; and of New Mills, in the interior of the parish, 30. Besides the accommodation of a regular post-office in Portsoy, and of a daily coach running between Aberdeen and Elgin, the parish is now supplied with excellent roads, being intersected by these in every quarter. There are fourteen miles of regular turnpike leading to Banff, Cullen, Keith, and Huntly. The bridges on the roads are substantial but the fences are but few. The pier around the new harbour of Portsoy, which was built by the proprietor, the Earl of Seafield, at a large expense, in the years 1825–28, and which formed one of the safest and most commodious on the coast, was first severely shaken on the north side, by the tremendous sea storm of 7th January 1839; and by another, on the 30th of the same month, was totally demolished. Not having been yet rebuilt, the

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old harbour is the only one at present used for shipping ; though small it is very safe and convenient.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church of Fordyce is centrally situated as respects the whole *quoad civilia* parish, and also its own ecclesiastical one, now only connected with it. The distance from it to the boundaries, varies from one and a-half to five miles. It was built in 1804, and is at present in a complete state of repair. It will accommodate about 1100 sitters. The sittings, divided amongst the several heritors, are all free. It is not known when the manse was built, but it underwent a thorough repair in 1832. The glebe is only two acres and a half, and its value about L. 5. But there is a croft of five acres called the vicar's croft, and which was mortified in 1595 for the use of the minister of Fordyce, which is still enjoyed by him. The stipend is sixteen chalders, exclusive of the bequest by Mr Smith already-mentioned.

The former chapel of ease at Portsoy was erected in 1836 into a regular *quoad sacra* parish church. The new parish, comprehending the town and a district of from one to two miles in circuit, lies wholly within the old parish. The church accommodates nearly 700 sitters. The minister's stipend is paid from seat-rents, and an annual allowance of L. 40 by the Earl of Seafield. It is guaranteed to the amount of 100 guineas ; and has hitherto, to the present incumbent, been made somewhat more. The payment of seat-rents, however, even though they be comparatively low, is felt to bear heavily on the labouring classes. All that an ordinary day-labourer can earn, (hardly averaging L. 18 annually,) is quite inadequate to enable him to pay for church accommodation, and the necessary education of his children, in addition to what is indispensably requisite to their comfortable maintenance.

There is an Episcopalian Chapel, and also a Roman Catholic one in Portsoy. The Roman Catholic Bishop resides at Preshome, in the *quoad sacra* parish of Enzie. The number of Episcopalianians in the whole parish is 95 ; of Roman Catholics, 112 ; of Dissenters, 23, leaving 3134 in connection with the Established Church, of whom 1450 are in the ecclesiastical parish of Fordyce, and 1684 in that of Portsoy. Divine service is well attended at the two Established churches, unless in very unfavourable weather ; and this is also stated to be the case at the two chapels. The number of communicants in Fordyce and Portsoy, for the last few years, has varied from 480 to 500 to each. There is a parochial association for religious purposes in both parishes, the object of

which is to support the schemes of the General Assembly, and to provide, at the same time, for local wants, such as Sabbath school libraries, cheap Bibles, circulation of tracts, and the like. The average amount of annual contributions for these objects may be stated as being, for Fordyce, L.16, 10s., and for Portsoy, L.14, 10s.

Education.—There are eleven schools in the whole *quoad civilia* parish, of which one is parochial; one is supported by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge; five others have more or less aid given to them from voluntary liberality, and the rest are entirely dependent on the exertions of their teachers. Greek, Latin, English grammar, arithmetic, mathematics, and all the common branches of education, are taught both at Fordyce and Portsoy. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is L. 34, 4s. 4½d. and the annual amount of his school-fees, about L. 30. He has no dwelling-house from the heritors, nor any allowance in lieu of it, but he has a glebe of ten acres of land, mortified by Thomas Menzies of Durn. The salary of the society's teacher in Portsoy is L. 15, with L. 5 additional from the Earl of Seafield, and the usual accommodation of a house and cow's grass. His school-fees average about L. 20. The same nobleman gives liberally to the support of an infant-school teacher, and female teacher, in Portsoy, and to three other teachers in different parts of the country district. The annual expense of education at the parochial school varies from 10s. to L. 1, according to the branches required; at the Society's school from 6s. to 14s.; and at the grammar school of Portsoy, which is unendowed, from 12s. to L. 1, 10s. The children at the infant school pay each one penny per week. The fees for the common branches of female education are much the same as those paid at the other schools; but a considerably higher charge is made for music, French, drawing, and the like.

There are very few between the ages of six and fifteen, who cannot either read, or are not learning to read; and few also who are not, at the same time, taught to write. Any persons above that age who are unable to read, and of whom likewise the number is very small, consists almost entirely of those who have come from the Highlands, and settled in the parish, after they had reached the years of maturity. The people in general are fully alive to the benefits of education; and the means of attaining these are now amply provided, there being no part of the parish that is not within a comparatively short distance of a school. No additiona

school is needed; but it were most desirable that the grammar-school in Portsoy were raised to the full status of a parochial one. By the extension of week-day schools, in conjunction with the Sabbath schools, the latter of which are under the immediate charge of the ministers of the Established Church, and are regularly attended by upwards of 400 children, a marked and gratifying improvement has been wrought, more especially upon the rising generation.

Literature.—There are two subscription libraries in Portsoy, besides a Sabbath school one there, and another at Fordyce, the books of which are given gratuitously to the children. There is also a small select library, consisting chiefly of religious works, belonging to the Episcopalian congregation. These have done much good, by diffusing a taste for reading among the parishioners.

Savings Bank.—A receiving branch of the Banff Central Savings Bank was established at Portsoy in 1837. Though it has not yet prospered to the extent that could be wished, it may be stated as a proof of its making progress, that within the last twelve months L. 145 have been deposited, while not more than L. 20 have been drawn. The depositors are chiefly of the working classes; and the whole amount of the deposits is now above L. 300.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—There are two distinct managements of the poor's funds,—one by the session of Fordyce, and the other by that of Portsoy; each session maintaining the poor connected with its own district of the parish.

Average number of persons receiving parochial aid in Fordyce,	50
Portsoy,	70
Average allowance to each annually in Fordyce	L. 1 1 0
Portsoy.	1 0 0
Average amount of church collections in Fordyce,	34 0 0
Interest of money and bequests,	19 0 0
Average amount of church collections in Portsoy,	59 0 0
Interest of money and bequests,	14 0 0

Besides the above means of support to the poor, there are about 40 bolls of meal annually distributed amongst the more indigent; and there is a female benevolent society in Portsoy, which sometimes expends in coal, clothing, &c. to the amount of L. 30. In both congregations, an extraordinary collection is made every year for the Aberdeen Infirmary, and for a pauper lunatic fund, established for the benefit of the different parishes in the presbytery, and under its immediate management. We regret to say, that, instead of their being, as formerly, a reluctance on the part of the

poor to seek parochial relief, the reverse is now too frequently the case.

Fairs.—There is a fair (All-Hallow Fair) held annually at Fordyce on the last Wednesday of October (old style); and another at the same place on the fourth Thursday of November (old style.) Both are for the sale of cattle and sheep; and the first has also been long one of the chief feeing markets of the district.

Inns.—The number of alehouses and shops where ardent spirits are sold in Fordyce and Portsoy together, is no less than 24. The effect of licensing so many of these has been most injurious to the morals of the community; and the facility with which such licenses have been hitherto obtained cannot be too deeply lamented. A Society on the principle of total abstinence, has been lately established in Portsoy, and its influence in lessening the prevalence of intemperance has already been very gratifying. Though as yet of little more than three months standing, it has reduced the consumption of ardent spirits to nearly one-third less than it had been in the former quarter. Such an influence needs only to be sufficiently extended, and made permanent, to drive intemperance speedily from the face of our land.

Fuel.—The chief fuel is English coals; but in the country district, a considerable quantity of peat is used, procured from the vicinity of the Knock Hill, and other adjacent places. The expense of the latter, per load, may be estimated at 2s. while the ordinary price of coals per barrel is 1s. 3d. In the summer season the barrel may often be purchased at 1s. 1d. or 1s. 2d.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The valuation of this parish in the year 1690, after deducting the public burdens, was L. 8274 Scots, or L. 689, 10s. of Sterling money. In last Statistical account, the land rent is stated to be nearly L. 4000. It is now about double of this sum, thus affording the best of all proofs of the success with which agricultural improvements have been carried on during the last forty or fifty years. It is also within the same period, that the excellent turnpikes and the other best roads have been made. An extension, however, of the present system of draining, the raising of more fences, the introduction of a superior style in farm-buildings, and the planting of some of the waste parts, would still farther add to the present improved aspect of the parish; and while the active spirit that is now showing itself gives promise of such meliorations in the

rural economy being rapidly extended, it is hoped that the continued appliance of the means of intellectual and Christian instruction will, under the Divine blessing, have a corresponding success, and be instrumental in making the moral improvement of the parishioners to keep pace with the advancements that are made in other respects. From the latter source only can flow the true and permanent happiness of individuals and communities; and statesmen would do well to keep in view, that all national prosperity will just be healthy and secure, in proportion as it is based on the character of a moral and religious people.

February 1842.

PARISH OF CABRACH. *

PRESBYTERY OF ALFORD, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.

THE REV. JAMES GORDON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name is derived from words in the Gaelic language signifying the *Timber Moss*, the parish being covered with moss and fir.

Boundaries, Extent, &c.—The medium length of the parish from south to north is 5 miles; the breadth from east to west, 3 miles. It is bounded on the north, by the parish of Glass; on the south, by Glenbucket; on the east, by Kildrummy; and on the west, by Mortlach and Inveraven.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY

Antiquities.—There is a tradition that one of the Kings of Scotland, Malcolm Canmore, had a residence in the parish, at a place called the "King's haugh," on the farm of Spenwell, and it is said there are still ruins of a castle to be seen there. I went in consequence to examine the spot, where I found ruins indeed, but such as had evidently been the abodes of later and humbler occupants, though the nature and quantity of materials might countenance the idea that they had been taken from the remains of some for-

* From Notes furnished by the Rev. William Ronald, parochial schoolmaster of Cabrach.