

to adopt changes which are likely to prove beneficial. Large tracts of ground in the parish which, thirty years ago, were bare moors, are now covered with thriving plantations, or have been subjected to the plough; but it may be remarked, that, while the land rent is at present nearly double of what it was at the date of the former Statistical Account, it may be doubted whether the wealth of the community is increased, or the commerce and trade of the town extended. The greatest changes have occurred in the public improvements of the town, and in the altered habits, tastes, and manners of the people.

During the last thirty years the streets of the town have been newly paved, lighted with gas, and embellished by the erection of a number of handsome buildings. In 1793, there was only one small bridge in the parish, and the passage across the Findhorn was made in a ferry boat, which often proved dangerous. There are now four excellent stone-bridges on the burn, and an elegant chain-bridge across the river. In 1806, no public conveyances passed through the parish; now a mail-coach and two stage-coaches pass daily. It were very desirable if we could add, that the improvement in the morals and religious feelings of the people was commensurate with their increased social advantages; but it is to be feared, that the tendencies of luxurious enjoyment are more adverse than conducive to good morals and religion.

February 1842.

PARISH OF EDENKILLIE.

PRESBYTERY OF FORRES, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. PETER FARRIES, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—The ancient Gaelic name of this parish was Aodincoillie, which signifies *the face of the wood*. This appellation, there can be no doubt, it derived from its general aspect; for while it contained two-thirds of the royal forest of Darnaway, and the whole of the royal forest of Drummie, the quantities of oak, fir, hazel, &c. which are still dug up in the peat-mosses, afford reason to believe, that the greater part, if not the whole of the parish, was covered with wood. This parish is not

unfrequently called Brae-Moray, which is descriptive of its acclivity from the low grounds of Moray, near Forres, on the north, to the range of hills to which it extends, and which divides it from Knockando and Cromdale, on the south. The form of the parish is irregular; its greatest length from north to south is about thirteen miles; its greatest breadth from east to west about seven; and it contains about fifty square miles. It is bounded on the north by the parish of Dyke, and a narrow portion of Rafford, which separates it from Forres; on the north-east and east by Rafford and Dallas; on the south by Knockando and Cromdale; and on the west by Ardcloch, Auldearn, and Dyke.

Topographical Appearances.—In its general surface, this parish is hilly, but not mountainous. The greatest eminence is the Knock of Brae-Moray, which is a hill near the southern extremity of the parish, of a round form, with a ridge sloping to the north-west, and from its summit, which is about 1000 feet above the level of the sea, it commands very varied and extensive views. The whole of this part of the parish, extending several miles in breadth, from Ardcloch on the west, all along its southern and eastern boundaries, is bleak and moorish, diversified by a few small farms, or rather parts of farms, which are under tillage, or were formerly under tillage, but now form parts of sheep-walks. From about a mile below the Knock, the western side of the parish, comprehending fully one-half of its mean breadth, and extending to its northern extremity on the left bank of the Findhorn, within a mile of the elegant suspension bridge over that river, on the toll-road from Inverness to Aberdeen, is for the most part under cultivation, or covered with wood. From many points, the views of this part of the parish are extremely beautiful. The picturesque scenery of the pleasure grounds of Relugas, the beautiful valleys of Dunphail, Logie, Sluie, and St John, on the banks of the Divie and the Findhorn, with the wood of almost endless variety, which rises from the gently sloping or precipitous banks of these rivers, and the finely cultivated fields on all sides of the grounds above, interspersed with clumps of trees of various forms and dimensions, present landscapes for richness and beauty, not often to be met with, and to which a considerable extent of the Moray Frith, which comes within the range of some of them, not a little contributes.

Climate.—The climate is very different in the two opposite extremities of north and south of this parish, even beyond, perhaps,

what usually occurs in a similar elevation and distance from the sea. Surrounded by extensive plantations, under the most approved system of farming, within the influence of the mellowing breeze from the Moray Frith, and with an elevation not exceeding 100 feet above it, the district in the vicinity of Darnaway Castle, (one of the seats of the Earl of Moray) and comprehending two-thirds of his Lordship's domain lands there, and one-third of the extensive nursery grounds and gardens, the atmosphere is remarkably dry, mild, and salubrious. But leaving the forestry, and ascending towards the southern extremity of the parish, the difference of climate is very perceptible. Here, from the entire destitution of wood, and from its proximity to the lofty mountains on the south-west, which are yet not so near as to afford shelter from the prevailing boisterous winds which blow from that direction, the air is sharp and cold; the winter is often severe and of long continuance; the snow is frequently found covering the whole surface to the depth of several inches, and the frost considerably intense, when the plough is in active operation on the lower grounds. On the latter, the grain seed-sowing and harvest are often on the eve of being finished, when here they are only beginning. At an average, there may be a difference of three weeks between them. More rain, too, falls here than on the low grounds of Morayshire, and, consequently, the old proverb, "that Morayland enjoys forty days more of fair weather, and fifteen days more of summer, than any other part of the nation," must be taken with especial limitation, as respects the more remote and elevated districts of this parish. The air, however, is healthful, and no peculiar diseases are known to the inhabitants of any part of it. In 1834, when cholera was raging throughout the whole length and breadth of the land, and when it committed such fearful devastation in Inverness, about twenty-four miles distant, and proved fatal to several of the inhabitants of Nairn, only seven miles off, it deserves to be recorded, with feelings of gratitude, that not a single case of infection occurred in this parish; nor even, what is more remarkable, as being the only county in Scotland completely exempted from it, in any parish in Morayshire. There have been many instances in this parish of extraordinary longevity. Within the last twelve years, twenty-two individuals were residing in it at the same time, above eighty years of age, four of whom were ninety-three, one ninety-five, and one ninety-six. When the census was taken on the 7th June 1841, there were seventeen individuals who were each upwards of eighty years of age.

*Soils.**—Those of the arable land are as follows :

Division of Soils of the Arable Land of Edenkillie.—

1. A small extent of brown-coloured loamy soil.
Subsoil, clay and red mortar.
2. A considerable extent of sharp black soil.
Subsoil, partly mortar, sand, and dry gravel.
3. A considerable extent of light, dry, sandy, and gravelly soil.
Subsoil, sand and dry gravel.
4. Moss.
Subsoil, generally white sand and clay.

Lands under Wood.—

5. A considerable extent of brown-coloured gravelly soil.
Subsoil, red mortar and gravel,—under very thriving oak.
6. A considerable extent of light clay soil, with a great mixture of sand.
Subsoil, gravel, mortar, and clay—under very thriving oak and larch.
7. A great extent of light sandy soil.
Subsoil, sand and open dry gravel—under Scotch fir, larch, and oak, all generally thriving.
8. A great extent of moorish soil.
Subsoil, gravel and white sand—under Scotch fir and larch, all thriving.
9. Wet moorish soil.
Subsoil, retentive, clay, and close gravel—under Scotch fir and larch, all stunted, and in a backward state.†

Hydrography.—The parish abounds with springs of the purest and finest water, but none of a medicinal quality, deserving of notice, have been hitherto discovered. The rivers are the Findhorn,

* The writer has to acknowledge his obligation for the following account of soils to an intelligent and respectable farmer in this parish.

† No. 1 is to be found on the farm of Redstone, and a small extent on Dounduff.

2. On Newton, Berryley, Connicavel, Cuperhill, Dounduff, part of Gervalley, part of Logie, part of Glenernie, East Tullyglens, the greater part of Dunphail estate, Half daugh, and part of the Knock lands.

3. The high land of Dounduff, the greater part of the properties of Sluice, Logie, and Relugas, West Tullyglens, and part of the Knock lands.

4. On Relugas, Broadshaw, and Half daugh.

5. Part of Darnaway forest opposite Sluice, and part of Dounduff oak plantation.

6. On the slopping banks on both sides of the Divie, Roughbog plantation on Logie and part of Dounduff plantation.

7. Part of Darnaway forest near the gate of Dounduff, the greater part of the woods of Relugas, and part of Logie at Tormore.

8. Part of Darnaway forest, Logie, and Sluice.

9. Part of Relugas plantation on the hill, and hill plantation of Tullyglens.

the Divie, and the Dorback. Of these the principal is the Findhorn, which "rises from a wide morass covering the flat summit of a mountain in the midst of the *Monad-leadh* group" in Inverness-shire, "and runs" north-east "through a direct line of country not less than sixty miles, its sinuosities being about thirty more," and discharges itself into the Moray Frith, about three miles below Forres. This river, in its course, runs through Edenkillie about seven miles, dividing the Darnaway district, which contains nearly one-sixth of its population, from the rest of the parish. The Divie has its origin in the hills which have been noticed as forming part of the southern boundary of the parish, and, with its windings, runs about nine miles in a north-westerly direction, when it joins the Findhorn. The Dorback flows from the lake Lochendorb, also forming a part of the southern boundary of the parish, and situated about midway betwixt the source of the Divie, and where the Findhorn enters this parish. Like the Divie, it has the whole of its course within the parish, which is about seven miles, when it unites with and loses its name in that river, about three-fourths of a mile below the church, and three miles from its junction with the Findhorn. The Divie and the Dorback are but of small dimensions, yet the former, for an extent of several miles, especially after being united with the latter, may almost vie with the Findhorn in the wildness, variety, and picturesque description of its scenery; nor after extraordinary falls of rain can the depth and force of its current be regarded but with mingled emotions of admiration and alarm. Its capability of doing mischief has been often felt; one striking instance of which has been well described by the accomplished and talented author of the "Account of the Great Floods in the Province of Moray in August 1829." The scenery on the Findhorn in its course through this parish, particularly deserving of notice, and not inferior to any perhaps throughout its whole course, commences at *Rannoch* or Randolph's Bridge, about a quarter of a mile above where the Findhorn is joined by the Divie, and about an equal distance on the east from the house of Relugas. From this place, for five or six miles down the stream, the scenery is truly magnificent, comprehending all the varieties of the wild, the grand, and the picturesque. Some of the finest views of that splendid scenery are obtained from various points of the very extensive and beautiful pleasure-walks, which were lately planned with great taste by the Honourable John Stuart, and are now in course of being finished—leading from the castle of Dar-

naway through the forest, and extending for several miles along the verge of the left bank of the Findhorn.

Heronry.—The banks of the Findhorn below Sluie are rendered remarkable by an extensive heronry which has existed there for generations. Some large and ancient oaks growing on the western side of the river are covered with the nests of this beautiful bird, and a few are lodged in the high and perpendicular cliffs of sandstone that tower over its stream on the eastern side. It is extremely interesting to watch the movements of these creatures when they are congregated here for the purpose of breeding; and the conflict which is waged with them by the jackdaws who are continually endeavouring furtively to possess themselves of their eggs the moment they quit their nests, is often extremely amusing.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—The principal land-owner is the Earl of Moray. The other heritors, taken in the order corresponding with the value of their estates, are, Charles Lennox Cumming Bruce, Esq. of Roseisle and Kinnaird, M. P. for the county; Mrs Cumming of Logie; Sir William G. G. Cumming of Altyre and Gordonstone, Bart.; and William Mackilligin, Esq., who purchased the property of Relugas from Sir Thomas Dick Lauder of Grange and Fountainhall, Bart., in 1836. Only two of the heritors at present reside in the parish, viz. Mr Cumming Bruce and Mr Mackilligin.

Parochial Registers.—These consist of six volumes: 1. contains acts of church discipline, from 3d January 1649 to 3d January 1676, and registers of baptisms and marriages from 1702 to 1733; 2. Church discipline and collections for the poor from 1702 to 1720; 3. Church discipline and collections for the poor from 1720 to 1764; 4. Register of baptisms from 1733 to 1810, and matrimonial contracts from 1741 to 1826, there being an interval in the latter from 1765 to 1783; 5. Church discipline and collections, and distributions to the poor from 1764 to 1841; 6. Register of births and baptisms from 1810, and matrimonial contracts from 1827 to 1841. From the above, several intervals appear to have occurred, in which no insertions were made in the registers of church discipline and matrimonial contracts since these began to be kept in this parish; and the registers of births and baptisms, with only one or two brief periods of exception, seem to have been very irregularly kept, till about thirty years ago.

Antiquities.—The Castle of Lochindorb, though a little beyond the boundary line which divides Edenkillie from Cromdale, yet

being situated on an island of a lake of that name, part of which is within this parish, and in the last Statistical Account, as well as in other records, having been treated of as belonging to it, some notice of it may be here expected. The remains of this castle occupy a space of about eighty square yards, and bear marks of having been a place of great strength. In 1303, Edward I. of England took possession of it on his way to Inverness, and on his return resided here for some time, where, and at Kinloss, he received the submission of the northern parts of the kingdom. In 1336, it was the residence of Catherine de Beaumont, widow of David de Hastings, Earl of Atholl, and "other ladyis that were luvly," when it was blockaded by Sir Andrew Moray, (successor in the Regency of Scotland to Douglas, who was killed at Halidon Hill,) but who, on the approach of Edward III. with a chosen body of his army, retreated to his castle at Darnaway. Of that retreat of Sir Andrew Moray's, Sir Walter Scott, in a letter to Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, as stated in a note of that gentleman's work already referred to, says, that it was one of the finest actions of the period, and most characteristic of Scottish generalship. The only farther authentic information we have of the Castle of Lochindorb is, that it was left garrisoned by Edward, —was the place of imprisonment and death of the celebrated William Bullock, a favourite of David Bruce, in 1342,—that it passed from the Earl of Moray into the hands of Campbell of Cawdor in 1606, and has been for at least a century past the property of the Earl of Seafield.

The *Castle of Duniphail* is also a fortress of considerable antiquity, though little can be learned either from history or tradition respecting it. Its ruins occupy a considerable space of the summit of a steep conical hill, only accessible by one side, with a deep narrow ravine, of a very romantic description, encompassing three-fourths of its base, which is supposed to have been, in ancient times, the channel of the Divie, though its present course is 60 feet lower, and 150 yards to the west. After the battle of "The Lost Standard," the castle was besieged by Randolph Earl of Moray, the first Regent of Scotland during the minority of David Bruce, and gallantly defended by Cumin, the proprietor. In the course of that siege, some incidents occurred characteristic at once of the bravery and barbarity of the age. Allastair Bane, son of Cumin, and a man who had distinguished himself by extraordinary deeds of valour, being no longer able to cope with the enemy in

open combat, after the dreadful slaughter of his followers in the engagement above alluded to, had recourse to ambuscade and stratagem to harass the besieging party, and to supply his father's garrison with provision. At length the place of his concealment was discovered, which was a deep cavern in a wild narrow glen, called Slaginnan, Gallicè *Slochh-nan-cean*, about half a mile from the castle, when he was taken by surprise and murdered. His head was then cut off and thrown into the fortress, with this terrible taunt to the old man, "Your son has provided you with meal, and we now send you flesh to eat with it." "It is a bitter morsel, indeed," said the veteran warrior, as he took it up, kissed it, and wept over it, "but I will gnaw the last bone of it before I surrender!" The castle and estate of Dunphail some time afterwards became the property of Mr Dunbar, and now belongs to Mr Cumming Bruce.

The *Doune Hill of Relugas* is described in the last Statistical Account as follows:—"It seems to be a fortress of still greater antiquity," viz. than the Castle of Lochindorb, "and used as such far beyond the period of authentic history. It appears to have been a place of strength, to which the inhabitants of the country retired, with their cattle, upon the invasion of the Danes, to which this country of Moray was so frequently exposed. It is a conical hill, round a considerable part of which runs the rapid river of Divie, in a deep rocky channel; and, when not defended by the river, it is encircled by a deep fosse or ditch, with a strong rampart on the outside, mostly composed of stones, some of which have the appearance of vitrification." It is probable that, in the early history of the country, the Doune of Relugas was one link of a chain of signal stations used for the purpose of communicating by fires up the twin glens of the Findhorn and Divie. The Romans also seem to have occupied it at one time, for Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, by digging, found some fragments of Roman pottery on the summit of it, which are still in his possession. They were supposed to have had a line of posts from Forres to Brae Mar, and thence to Perth, and this was unquestionably one of them; and in this very line, and at no great distance, a spear and two bronze hatchets were found on the property of Sluis, which are likewise in the possession of Sir Thomas.

Modern Buildings.—The mansion-house of Dunphail, which is an elegant edifice, and has been described as one of the happiest

efforts of Mr Playfair's classical taste, was built in 1829. A considerable addition is now in course of being made, which, when completed, will greatly increase the accommodation, without, perhaps, detracting from the effect of the original structure. It stands on a terrace about 130 yards from the Divie, and 26 feet above it. From its south-west front, the eye, after passing over the intervening lawn, naturally glides along the beautifully wooded western bank of that river, and through the vale of the Dorbach, till the view is terminated by the summit of the Knock. About 170 yards from its north-east front rises the nearer of two tiers of terraces, at the northern extremity of the higher and more distant of which is the hill on whose summit the old castle stands, and which appears over the tops of the intervening trees and shrubberies, and between the wood of the adjacent banks, "majestic in ruins." On the higher of these terraces, which stretches from the southern base of the castle-hill, is the garden, which is most tastefully and elegantly laid out, as are the whole of the flower-plots and shrubberies which ornament that beautiful valley. The dreadful ravages committed there by the floods of 1829 have been amply repaired; and, from the immense strength of the embankments which have been made, no encroachments of the river in that quarter, at least beyond the flat fields on its right bank, may any longer be apprehended.

The House of Relugas was considerably enlarged and improved, about fourteen years ago, by an addition consisting of a very handsome suite of apartments, 96 feet in length, with an arched vestibule projecting from the centre. The house presents a most beautiful picturesque appearance from various directions, and admirably harmonizes with the delightfully romantic scenery of its pleasure-grounds, and the surrounding country.

The mansion-house of Logie stands at the northern extremity of the valley of that name, on the right bank of the Findhorn; but no alterations have been made on it, deserving of notice, since the last Statistical Account was published.

A very handsome shooting lodge, consisting of eight apartments, belonging to the Honourable John Stuart, and generally occupied by him and other members of the Noble family of Moray for several weeks of the shooting season, was erected three or four years ago at the north-west base of the Knock, on the right bank of the Dorbach, and about three miles above its junction with the Divie.

III.—POPULATION.

The population according to the return made by Dr Webster was	1443
By the last Statistical Account,	1800
census of 1801,	1123
1811,	1215
1821,	1233
1831,	1300
1841,	1234

By the writer of the last Statistical Account of this parish, published in 1793, the great increase of the population to that period from 1775, is ascribed to “a good deal of the waste land in the remoter parts of the parish having been lately brought into culture by families settling in these wilder parts.” The subsequent much greater decrease from 1793 to 1801, amounting to more than a third part of the whole population, at the former of these periods, appears to have been owing to the extension of farms, and the consequent removal not only of many of the former tenants and their families, but also of the cottagers and their families, who had been very numerous on some of the properties before these changes were effected. The apparent increase again from 1821 to 1831, may be accounted for from a number of masons and labourers employed in building bridges, and in making the new line of road from Pitnisk to Dava, and other improvements that were then going on in the parish, who did not properly belong to it; but were included in the census taken at the latter of these periods.

Number of families in the parish,	287
chiefly employed in agriculture,	126
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	39
in none of these occupations,	122
Number of males in the parish,	592
females,	652
unmarried men, bachelors, or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	29
women, including widows, upwards of 45 years of age,	93
The average number of births yearly for the last seven years,	32
marriages,	9
The number of persons at present under 15 years of age,	471
upwards of 70,	54
Number of insane, 2; of blind, 3.	

Character and Habits of the People.—The practice of illegal distillation, which prevailed to a considerable extent within the last twenty years, amongst the minor tenants of the upper districts of the parish, was attended with all its usual pernicious effects on the inhabitants. Since their means of support, and of paying their rents from that source, have entirely ceased, a manifest improvement has taken place, both with respect to their pecuniary circumstances and moral character. A due attention to their

farms, which were formerly neglected, has more than compensated for any pecuniary loss that might at first be sustained by the suppression of smuggling; and instances of intemperance and open profanation of the Sabbath, are now of rare occurrence. A great improvement has also taken place in their attendance on religious ordinances. The practice of announcing sales, &c. by a crier, in the church-yard, upon the congregation retiring from church, has been quite discontinued; and there have not been more than two instances of funerals on Sabbath for the last five years.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—

The number of acres, standard imperial measure, which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage,	3,831
The number of acres that never have been cultivated, supposed to be about	25,000
acres in a state of undivided common,	0
acres under wood,	4,700

More than one-half of the land under wood belongs to the Earl of Moray; two-thirds of the forest of Darnaway, as has been already stated, being in this parish, which consists of oak, ash, beech, elm, sycamore, Spanish chestnut, larch, spruce-fir, Scotch fir, mountain-ash, poplars, birches, gean-trees, hollies, alders, &c. In the course of the last twelve years, a large quantity of the wood which had arrived at maturity in the forest has been cut down, and the vacant ground has been filled up by young plantations, consisting chiefly of oak, to the number of about 100,000 annually, on which all due care is bestowed in the way of draining, pruning, and fencing. The young plants are raised from seed on the nursery grounds at Darnaway. At three years old, they are planted out in pits previously prepared by mixing a small quantity of lime with the earth in the bottom, which is said to promote their growth, so as to make as much progress the first year as they generally do in two years, when planted in the usual way. The proportion of the other properties under wood is nearly as follows: Dunphail, 800 acres; Logie, 573; Altyre, 400; Relugas, 547. The Scotch firs are greatly improved in quality, and their growth promoted, by procuring the seed from the natural wood grown in Strathspey.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of land under cultivation is about 16s. per annum the imperial acre.

Breed of Live-Stock.—The black-cattle reared are chiefly of the Highland breed; but about 100 two years old, of a larger

size, are purchased in autumn, fed upon turnip, and sold the following summer to cattle-dealers, who purchase them for the southern markets. The sheep, consisting of about 2500, are of the black-faced kind, with the exception of about 250 of the Cheviot breed, which are purchased in September, and fattened upon turnip for the butcher, or partly fed with turnip, and sold with their lambs the succeeding year.

Fishings.—There is a considerable salmon-fishing within the parish, at Sluie, upon the Findhorn, the property of the Earl of Moray. Four men are employed there to fish, with a boat and draught nets, the Sluie pool, and two other pools near to it, with two or three more, considerably farther down the river. Before salmon-fishing nearer the sea was so well understood as it is now, the fishing at Sluie was of great celebrity. It appears by a letter dated 7th June 1648, from the Earl of Moray to his Countess, that “in one night, on the Pool of Sluie alone, 1300 salmon were taken; and at one draught, six-and-twenty scores.” About thirty-six years ago, 360 salmon were caught in the same pool on one day. But the number now taken, in all the pools connected with the net-fishing there, does not average above 700 yearly. It is let to Messrs Hogarth and Co. at an yearly rent of L.50, the right of angling being reserved to himself by the Noble proprietor, which some years ago was let by the Company at L.20 per annum. At the Ess, or fall, which is about six feet in height, and half a mile above Sluie, a man is employed by the Company to fish with an instrument here called a *clip*, which has a handle ten feet in length, and two or three crooked prongs. The man placing himself upon a rock immediately below the fall, and holding his clip about six inches under water, and eight or ten inches from the rock where he is seated, watches the opportunity of the fish being driven to the water’s edge by the force of the fall, and by a sudden jerk with his instrument, seldom fails to place it on the rock beside him.

The Findhorn affords excellent sport to anglers, both of salmon and trout. A considerable variety of the latter kind of fish is caught in the Divie and Dorbach, especially after falls of rain.

Produce.—The average amount and value of gross produce, yearly raised in the parish, may be nearly as follows:

Oats,	1237 imperial acres, at L.3 10 0 per acre,	L.4399 10 0
Barley,	181 do.	5 0 0 do. 905 0 0
Wheat,	125 do.	6 10 0 do. 812 10 0
Pease,	85 do.	3 0 0 do. 105 0 0

Potatoes;	172 Imperial acres, at	L. 5	0	0	per acre, L.	860	0	0
Turnips,	296 do.	3	10	0	do.	826	10	0
Rye-grass hay;	417 do.	9	0	0	do.	1251	0	0
Grass in pasture,	908 do.	1	0	0	do.	908	0	0
2500 sheep, grazed at 3s. per sheep,	-	-	-	-	-	375	0	0
Annual thinnings and fallings of wood,	-	-	-	-	-	1700	0	0
Fishing,	-	-	-	-	-	50	0	0
						L. 12,192	10	0

Husbandry.—When the last Statistical Account was published, farming seems to have been in a very backward state in this parish: Since then, hundreds of acres of land, which had been lying waste and useless, have been brought under cultivation, with an ample return of profit; and the land previously in culture, by means of draining, cleaning, the application of lime, and a regular rotation of cropping, has been rendered, in many instances, worth more than double its former value. Lime, of which little or none had been used at the former period, is now had recourse to almost universally. It is procured from Cothall limekilns, the property of Sir William G. G. Cumming, Bart., in the parish of Forres, about six miles distant from the centre of this parish; or from the sea-port of Findhorn, about fourteen miles off, where it is imported from England. About seventeen bolls are generally given to the imperial acre, which are supposed to be fully equal in the effects it produces on the land here, to a third more on the low grounds of Morayshire nearer the sea.

The commencement of agricultural improvements in the upper districts may be dated from about the beginning of the present century, when Mr Alexander Wilson, late tenant at Gervally, was brought from Berwickshire by Mr Cumin of Regulars to this parish. His merits as an agriculturist have been recognized in a manner which must have been highly gratifying to his surviving family, as it was honourable to themselves, by five extensive and most respectable proprietors, who erected a marble tablet to his memory in the churchyard of Edenkillie, where his remains were deposited, in order, as the inscription on it bears, “to mark the sense they entertain of his zeal and fidelity in the management and improvement of the estates in this neighbourhood.”

While the spirit of improvement, of late years, has been evinced in a greater or less degree on all the properties, it is no more than justice to state, that the improvements, both of an useful and ornamental kind, which have been making on Dunphail, the property of Mr Cumming Bruce, especially on that part of it, of which

there is a considerable portion now in his own hands, hold a distinguished place. Much waste land has been reclaimed, and more in course of being so. The most approved system of farming has been adopted. Fields have been enclosed, generally with sunk fences faced with stone, along the tops of which are planted rows of forest trees, or hedge-rows of thorn or beech.

The mode of drying land by wedge drains, according to the plan recommended by Mr Smith of Deanston, has been practised to a very considerable extent; and the subsoil-plough, which Mr Cumming Bruce introduced two years ago, promises to form another era in the improvement of agriculture in this parish.

Manufactures.—There are three corn-mills in the parish, viz. the Dunphail, the Logie, and Half-davoch. The Dunphail mills include an oat-mill, one for barley, one for sawing timber, a thrashing-mill, and till lately there was a carding-mill, all under the same roof, and wrought by the same stream of water.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Markets, Means of Communication, &c.—The nearest market-town is Forres, at the distance of eight miles and three-quarters from the parish church. Nairn is fourteen miles, and Grantown thirteen miles, from the same place. At Forres, is also the nearest post-office; but runners carrying the mail bag betwixt Forres and Grantown, which is conveyed in a gig from the latter place to Aviemore, one of the stages on the Highland road from Inverness to Perth, pass twice a day along the road extending throughout the whole length of the parish on the east of the river Findhorn. Several carriers pass weekly along the same road. The turnpike road within the parish on the above line, nine miles of which were made about ten years ago, is eleven miles in length; and three more by the old route from Forres to Grantown. From the turnpike road, about half a mile above the church, there is a parish road by the bridge of Dalt-lich, across the Findhorn, and through the forest of Darnaway, to the toll-road between Inverness and Aberdeen. Besides these, from ten to twelve miles of roads have been made by Sir William Cumming on his property within the parish; which, with roads of several miles in length made by Mr Cumming Bruce, afford excellent means of communication to almost every part of the parish. There are three toll-bars within the parish; but travellers passing along the whole length of the toll-road pay only at two of them.

Bridges.—By the floods of 1829, two substantial stone bridges

over the Divie and the Dorbach, about sixty yards above their junction, were swept completely away. These devastations, however, were, in 1831, fully remedied by a very handsome bridge built across the Divie, near the church, on the new turupike road; and by one built at the same time over the Dorbach, in a very romantic situation, about half a mile above where the old one stood, on the parish road already mentioned, by the bridge of Dalt-lich. Both of these bridges have their arches built of granite, and springing from rocks on each side.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is situated on the right bank of the Divie, not, as is marked on almost every map the writer has seen, to the east of the Knock, but two miles nearly due north of it; and is as central and convenient as might be for the general population, though at the distance of nine and a-half miles from one extremity of the parish. It was built in 1741, was new seated, and underwent some other improvements in 1813. Though comfortable enough within, it is of a very mean exterior, and much requires that something should be done at once to preserve the building, and to improve its appearance. It is seated to contain 500 persons, which is sufficient for the population, especially as those residing in the Darnaway, or Conicaval district, from their great distance, are unable regularly to attend their parish church. The number of communicants in the parish is about 140, sixty of whom are male heads of families; and from twenty to thirty from other parishes, join them in partaking of the ordinance of the supper, at its annual dispensation in the parish.

The manse was built in 1823. It is a neat and handsome-looking building, in the cottage style, and in good repair. It is supplied with excellent water, conveyed by leaden pipes from a spring 160 yards distant; and which cost the last incumbent upwards of L. 40. The glebe, including the garden, shrubberies, and the site of the manse, and offices, contains ten imperial acres, and is worth L. 12 per annum. The stipend is L. 123, 6s. 10d.; 46 bolls, 2 pecks, $\frac{1}{2}$ lippie of barley; 4 bolls, $\frac{1}{2}$ firloft, 2 pecks, $\frac{1}{2}$ lippie of oatmeal; 1 firloft, 1 lippie of oats, according to the old measure of the county. The average annual amount of money and victual stipend is about L. 185.

The number of families in the parish belonging to the Established church is, 269; number of Seceding or Dissenting families, 17; Episcopalian, 1. With the exception of only two of the families in the parish belonging to Seceding or Dissenting congregations, there

is none of their houses within less than seven and a-half miles from the parish church. Their places of worship are Forres, and Bog-hole in the parish of Auldearn.

Education.—There are five schools in the parish, exclusive of five Sabbath schools, viz. the parochial school; one at Conicaval, and one at Tullydivie, both of which are supported by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge: one female school at Half-davoch, on the property of Sir William Cumming, who allows to the teacher a salary of L.5 per annum; and one female school at the Knock, on the teacher's own adventure. The parish school, and the schools supported by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, are each attended by about 100 scholars in the course of the year. The number present at all the schools, at the annual examination by the presbytery last spring, was as follows: parochial school, 60; Conicaval, 60; Tullydivie, 54; Half-davoch, 36; the Knock, 30. About one-half of the number of scholars attending the school at Conicaval is from the parish of Dyke; and about 8 from Rafford of those attending the school at Half-davoch. The salary of the parish schoolmaster is the maximum, L. 34, 4s. 4½d.: the school fees amount to about L.16 per annum; and the Trustees of the late Mr Dick's bequest to the parochial teachers of the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray, have allowed to the schoolmaster of this parish, for the present year, L. 38, 5s. 1d., which allowance may be expected to be continued so long as the teacher shall act in conformity to the regulations, and merit the approbation of the trustees.

Library.—There is a parish library consisting of 160 volumes, chiefly of religious works. It is supported by a contribution of 1s. per annum from each of the subscribers, of whom there are at present about 40.

Savings Bank.—A savings bank was instituted here last year, in connection with the Forres and Nairn Savings Bank; and, from the manner in which a considerable number have already availed themselves of it, it promises to be highly useful.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The regular number on the poor's list is about 34, and the number who receive occasional aid is about

* From the last Statistical Account it appears that there is a claim for three schools in this parish from the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, in consequence of a donation by Dr Cumin, son of James Cumin, Esq. of Relugas. This gentleman was physician to King William III. at the battle of the Boyne, in 1690. In 1714, he sent the sum of L.261, 13s. 7d. Sterling to the Society, with a recommendation that they should keep always three schools in this parish.

8. The church collections for the poor, for the last seven years, have averaged about L.29; which, along with donations from the heritors of about L. 10 per annum, (after deducting L. 4, 10s. to the session-clerk, precentor, and beadle), are distributed regularly, three times a year, by the kirk-session, according to the comparative degrees of need of the applicants, and varying from 12s. to L.1, 7s. per annum to each. These sums are very inadequate as means of efficient relief. But the deficiency is in a good measure supplied by the beneficence of the heritors to the poor on their respective properties; of which an excellent example is set by the Earl of Moray, who allows to a considerable number one peck of meal each, or 1s. per week. Several aged and infirm individuals on the property of Mr Cumming Bruce are not only supplied with soup, twice a-week, from the kitchen at Dunphail, but have also, along with others, meal regularly, and occasionally blankets and clothing, bestowed on them by him and his lady. The poor on the estate of Logie still continue to be remembered by the proprietress and her family, though now residing at a distance from the parish, with all their characteristic liberality and kindness. Nor would it be proper to omit to notice in this statement of good offices to the poor, the readiness of the people themselves to contribute to the aid of the necessitous, whether residing in their immediate neighbourhood, or when application is made to them from other quarters. In the course of the severe winter preceding last, unaided by any of the heritors, save a small contribution from one of them, they raised among themselves in meal and money about L. 17 for behoof of the poor of the parish. The collections in church in aid of the schemes recommended by the General Assembly average from L. 6 to L. 7 annually.

Inns.—There are two small inns in the parish for the accommodation of travellers. To these there can be no objections when used only for their proper purpose. But it is matter of regret, for obvious reasons, that toll-keepers should be allowed to convert their houses into dram-shops.

Fuel.—The fuel generally used is peat, of which a plentiful supply, in favourable seasons, is obtained from the mosses in different parts of the parish. Coals are brought from the sea-port of Findhorn, where they are imported from England.

February. 1842.