

PARISH OF KINLOSS.

PRESBYTERY OF FORRES, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. WILLIAM ROBERTSON, A.M. MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name and Boundaries.—TRADITION bears, that Duff Mac Malcolm, King of Scotland, having been assassinated in the Castle of Forres, his body was for a short time concealed under a bridge in this parish, and its name, as if commemorating this tragical event, is by the less educated classes in the surrounding districts written not unfrequently *Kingloss*. There is every reason to disbelieve this legend of the twelfth century. The name seems to be a compound of the two Celtic* words *cean-loch*, pronounced Kinloch, the form in which it actually appears in a charter of endowment of lands granted to the abbey by King William, and which accurately points out its locality, the abbey being situated at the head of the bay. The parish is bounded on the north, by the Moray frith; on the south, by the parishes of Rafford and Forres; on the west, by the river Findhorn; and on the east, by the parish of Alves.

Topographical Appearances.—In figure it is nearly square, the side between three and four miles in extent. Viewed at its southern boundary, on the turnpike road leading from Aberdeen to Inverness, about three miles east of Forres, where the land is somewhat elevated, it has a flat champaign appearance, offering little of a picturesque description, but a great deal on which the eye of the philanthropist may look with satisfaction. The first object that attracts notice is Grangehall, with its thriving plantations. Then are seen the ruins of the abbey, the church and manse of modern date, and Seapark House with its policies. Fertile well cultivated fields, studded with farm-houses, adapted, some of them for the accommodation of genteel families, and all neat and comfortable, appear on every side; whilst in the back ground, Findhorn displays its

* Moray, the name of the county, is itself of Celtic derivation—*Mur-thaobh*, the sea-coast.

masts, with the commercial flag waving in the breeze; and the ocean rolls its waters into a bay, at full tide, more than seven miles in circumference. The scene altogether suggests the idea of health, peace, and plenty.

The line of coast, which extends east about four miles, is uniformly low, excepting the mounds of drifted sand, which extend along, and often change their position by the action of the wind and tide. Behind these sandy hillocks, runs a bleak bank of coarse shingle, about one-fourth of a mile broad. That the land once projected out where the bar now is, cannot be doubted; but being low, as well as loose and pliable, it is not at all surprising that it should have yielded to the impetuosity of the sea, which, although now more effectually opposed by this gravelly ridge, presents as much as ever the appearance of an ambitious adversary still aiming at new conquests. In proof of this, it may be mentioned, that the present town of Findhorn is the third that has borne the name. The first stood about a mile west of the bar, the point at which the river originally had its confluence with the Frith, until those *tumuli* called the Sandy Hills, by whatever impulse set in motion, drove it, in their progress eastward, into the channel it now occupies. The founders of the second took up a position a little to the north of the present village, where they doubtless imagined it would be safe; but in the course of time, the advancing ocean reached their habitations also, and swept them into its watery bed. Nor is the existing town free from the risk of being overtaken, partially at least, by a similar catastrophe. The little space that intervenes between tide-mark and the north end, is a broken bank of sand, that drifts dreadfully with every hurricane, covering the streets and gardens to the depth sometimes of eight or ten feet: and this constitutes but a feeble bulwark against the tremendous surf that beats with a north-easterly swell; so that if means be not taken to give it a solid surface, either by laying it over with turf, or planting it with bent, there is reason to apprehend that it will by and by be blown away altogether, leaving Findhorn that now is to share at some future period the fate of its predecessors.

Hydrography.—The only river in the parish is the Findhorn or Erne, which, taking its rise in the mountains near Badenoch, and winding through the counties of Inverness and Nairn by a course of about sixty miles from south-west to north-east, amid some of the most romantic scenery in Scotland, especially after its entrance

into Morayshire, falls at length here into the Moray Frith. It abounds with salmon and trout, and affords excellent sport to the angler. There is also a rivulet or burn, called the Burn of Kinloss, which flows due east and west, and divides the parish into almost equal parts. Receiving at the east end of the parish two tributary streams, and fed in its progress by numerous drains, it occasionally swells to a considerable size, and empties itself into the bay of Findhorn, a little below the parish church.

*Meteorology.**—The mean density of the atmosphere is found to be 29.595; the mean temperature in the shade 48.6; the mean monthly depth of rain 2.006 inches. For about one-third part of the year, the south-west wind blows; to which circumstance is to be ascribed the superior mildness of the air in Morayshire, during the summer and autumn. In the end of autumn, and for the most part of winter, either a north-west wind prevails, increasing often to a tempest, with cold rain, sleet, or snow, or a north wind, which is always cold, generally fair, but occasionally accompanied by heavy rain. The most unpleasant weather in all the year is about the end of spring and beginning of summer, when a keen easterly wind continues for weeks in succession. In this particular locality, when the wind blows either from the north or east, in winter or spring, it is intensely cold, and, on the other hand, in summer and autumn it is uncommonly sultry and hot. The transition also from heat to cold and from cold to heat is not only frequent but sometimes sudden. Yet the climate is remarkably healthy, and the inhabitants live in general to an advanced age. Pulmonary complaints and rheumatism are not unfrequent.

Geology.—There is considerable diversity of soil in the parish, —clay, loam, sand, and moss; but a rich fertile loam is its prevailing character, particularly in the lowest part of the valley, and towards the gently rising acclivity of its southern boundary, where alluvial deposits from the higher lands of the surrounding district settle down. Clayey loam abounds chiefly in the east end of the parish, deep black loam in the centre, about the precincts of the abbey, and light, sharp, sandy loam northward in the direction of the sea. The average depth of the soil is from eighteen inches to three feet, resting on a subsoil, sometimes of yellow or blue clay, but, for the most part, of red or white sand. Below the sand

* The substance of this part of the article is taken from a meteorological journal kept at the Elgin Institution for 1835.

is found, in some places, a stratum of gravel, and betwixt them, at the depth of eight or ten feet from the surface, a bed of shells, proving almost to demonstration, that, at a remote period, the sea must have overflowed the land that is now cultivated. The proportion of peat earth or moss is not very great, being limited to a few acres on each side of the turnpike leading to Forres, immediately below the plantations of Grange. The subsoil, as elsewhere, is principally sand. The soil, in general, is capable, under good management, of producing plentifully every species of crop, and the abbey lands especially are considered equal in quality to any in Morayshire.

Zoology.—In this department, there is little variety. Hares, partridges, and rabbits are the only game that abounds in the parish. The wild-duck is occasionally found along the shores. Weasels are numerous. The fox has not been seen for some years; but he had, not long ago, his lodgement in the wood of Blackstob. Salmon, which abound, are allowed to go up to the spawning ground at the beginning of August. They deposit their spawn about October, and return to the sea in November. The only shell-fish that are found, are mussels and cockles. The former are used for fish-bait more than food, and are bought by the fishermen at a high price from the proprietor or his tenant. The latter are gathered free, and sold by those who gather them in the country and towns around.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

At the downfall of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, when the religious houses were dissolved, Mr Edward Bruce of Clackmannan got the lands belonging to Kinloss Abbey, the only one in the province of Moray, *in commendam*, and was created Baron Kinloss in 1601, and his son, Thomas, Earl of Elgin, and Baron Bruce of Kinloss, 1633. By him the lands and feu-duties were sold to Brodie of Lethen.

Land-owners.—The present proprietors with their respective valuations and rentals are,

H. A. J. Munro, Esq. of Novar,	L.2000
Sir J. P. Grant of Rothiemurchus, Bart.	280
Sir G. M'Pherson Grant of Ballindalloch, Bart.,	360
Major P. Grant Peterkin of Grange,	1100
J. Campbell Brodie, Esq. of Lethen,	450
John Dunbar, Esq. of Seapark,	50
Real rental,	L.4240

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers were carried away

prior to 1699, but since that period, minute-book, marriage and baptism registers have been regularly kept, and there has also been a register of deaths kept since 1st January 1826.

Mansion-houses.—The only resident heritor is Major Grant Peterkin. Grangehall, his seat, already alluded to, is an elegant, commodious, and substantial mansion, of a quadrangular shape, built in the modern style of architecture. The lobby is exceedingly spacious and handsome, and all the rooms correspond in size and comfort. Seapark, the residence of John Dunbar, Esq., has lately had great improvements made on it, by additions, enclosures, and planting, and the arrangements, both inside and outside, display great judgment and taste.

Antiquities.—Of these the ruins of the Abbey alone are important or interesting. It was founded by King David I., December 19th 1150, and confirmed by a papal bull 1174. It was liberally endowed. Shaw, in his history of Moray, mentions, that in 1561 the revenues were L.1152, 1s. Scots—47 chalders, 11 bolls, 1 firloft, 3 pecks, bear and meal; 10 bolls 3 firlofts, oats; 34 wedders, 41 geese, 60 capons, 125 poultry. The fragments that remain of the church, with its aisles, and the chapter-house, as well as the monastery, clearly shew that the buildings must have been originally splendid and extensive. Edward I. resided here for six weeks in the autumn of the year 1303, and a detachment of his army remained for a longer period. Little, however, is now to be seen of the former magnificence and grandeur of the edifice. In the year 1652, the walls were broken down and the stones sold to Cromwell's soldiers to build the citadel of Inverness. Since then, violent hands have committed depredations on it at various times, and in fact, it has formed a quarry for almost all the old houses and granaries in the neighbourhood. Still, notwithstanding these attacks, the side and gable walls of the abbacy stood entire until they were within these few years past recklessly levelled to the ground, and disposed of for building dikes. Not one stone would have been left on another to mark the spot, had not the trustee on the estate, a gentleman of antiquarian taste and attainments, interdicted the spoliation, and caused the east gable, that narrowly escaped destruction, to be propped by a buttress of mason-work; and there it stands, the sad and solitary fragment of a mansion, wherein the mitred abbot once held his sumptuous banquets, and even princes were his guests.

III.—POPULATION.

In 1755 the population was	1191
1797,	1091
1801,	917
1811,	1052
1821,	1071
1831,	1121
1841,	1202

In the country part of the parish, the population has been rather on the decline.

The yearly average of births for the last seven years, is	29
deaths,	19
marriages,	6

Character of the People.—The peasantry are intelligent, sober, and industrious, although the practice, which has become so universal, of hiring servants at markets, is found to be producing deteriorating effects on morals. The fishing people are here a distinct race, distinguished eminently, the female sex more especially for their great civility, sobriety, cleanness, and proper behaviour in every respect. Instances of thoughtlessness and improvidence may be met with, and then misery and want will be met with, too, as inseparable concomitants; but the careful and the temperate live contented and happy, having abundance of the necessaries and a few even of the luxuries of life, in neat, well-furnished, and comfortable cabins. Taken as a body, the inhabitants, both seafaring and landward, respect religious ordinances, and regularly attend on them, and when they come out on the Sabbath, dressed in their best attire, the very respectable appearance and devout manner they exhibit, seldom fail to attract the notice of a stranger. It is to be hoped too, that whilst, with very few exceptions, they have all the form of godliness, many of them are blest by the experience of its power.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—

The parish consists of 5065 acres standard imperial measure, and of these are cultivated, or occasionally in tillage,	2850 acres.
Constantly waste,	200
An undivided common,	1765
Planted,	250

The planted wood consists of Scots fir, larch, birch, and oak. No natural wood grows in the parish. The average rent of arable land is L. 1, 8s. 6d. per imperial acre. Farm-labourers have in summer 1s. 6d. a-day of wages, and in winter 1s. 3d.; other labourers earn from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per day, and tradesmen from 2s. to 3s.

Produce.—The average amount of raw produce raised in the parish is as follows:

Imperial Acres.	Quarters.	Total.	Price.	
995 grass,				
640 barley,	4 per acre,	2560	L.1 10 0	L.3640 0 0
358 wheat,	3 do.	1050	2 11 6	2703 15 0
510 oats,	9½ do.	1785	1 2 6	2007 7 10
130 potatoes,	18 bolls.	2340	0 10 0	1170 0 0
227 turnips,			4 0 0	908 0 0
100 ryegrass hay,	150 stones,	15000	0 1 0	750 0 0
50 pease,	3 qrs. per ac.	150	1 16 6	279 15 0
42 milk cows reared annually, worth each L.8,				336 0 0
174 cows yield dairy produce, each L.3,				522 0 0
89 fat cattle yearly reared, each L.11,				979 0 0
285 cattle bought and fattened, each L.3, 10s.				997 10 0
300 sheep, reared annually, each, L.1				300 0 0
17 horses reared annually, each L.20,				340 0 0
246 swine, each L.1, 10s.,				369 0 0
				L.15,496 7 10

Much attention has been paid of late to the improvement of live-stock, and the style of farming is also far superior to what prevailed in former times. The rotation of cropping generally followed is the six-shift, beginning with green crop, which is followed by barley; then two years' grass, succeeded by wheat; and lastly by oats. A great deal has been done of late in the way of draining, ditching, and enclosing. One enterprising tenant alone has expended from L.1500 to L.2000 on such improvements. Within the last ten years also, nearly 200 acres have been brought into cultivation by industrious and skilful tenants. Of any estate in the parish, that of Grange shows probably the greatest change for the better. When it was bought about the year 1800, it contained 700 acres, of which two-thirds at least were completely waste; at present, the whole of that waste is under wood or regular cultivation.* Extensive improvements have been made too on the barony of Muirtown; and on the farm of Kinloss, the proprietor has built as handsome and commodious a square of offices as any in the county. By planting and taking in waste land, the estate of Sir G. Macpherson Grant, Bart. has undergone considerable change. The march of improvement, however, has still room to advance. No inconsiderable portion of the undivided common, now overflowed by the sea, might, by embanking, be reclaimed, and were a belt of planting carried down from Kinloss to Findhorn, on each side of the road, where there is nothing at

* In many respects, this parish had cause to regret the early death of the late amiable and intelligent proprietor, John Gordon Peterkin, Esq. of Grange and Greshop. He has been succeeded in the possession of the estate by his sister Mary Anne, only surviving child of the deceased James Peterkin, Esq., and a lady distinguished by many virtues. She married Major Peter Grant of Invererne. The parochial funds for the relief of the poor, and all contributions to charitable and religious objects, meet on every occasion with the generous support of the family.

present, but a coarse kind of bent, it would add greatly to the beauty of the landscape and the mildness of the climate.

Fisheries.—There are three different kinds of fisheries regularly prosecuted in the parish, the salmon, herring, and white or haddock fishery. The first has been successfully carried on for many years. The great flood of August 1829 so altered the course of the river at its confluence with the sea, that, for some seasons afterwards, it yielded not the same return as before, but now it is returning again to its wonted state of productiveness. On an average there are 600 boxes of fish, packed with ice, each containing 34 lbs., and worth L.5 Sterling, annually shipped for the London market. The fish is caught partly by drag, still, bag, stake-net, and yair. The price here, from 1st February to the 1st June is 1s. 6d. per lb. for salmon, and 1s. for grilse, and from 1st June to 1st August 1s. for the former, and 6d. for the latter. The rent for the whole river, bay, and sea fishing is L.1180. The herring-fishery, which is next, if not first in importance to the parishioners, has also been prosecuted with various success for the last twenty years. The fishermen are sixty in number, and during the last ten years upwards of 20,000 barrels of herrings have been caught by them, for which they have been paid on an average, at the rate of at least 8s. 6d. per barrel, making the sum received by them for that period L. 8500, while the time spent each season in earning their gains seldom exceeds seven weeks. The boats are of large dimensions, and will carry from eight to ten tons weight. The herrings are of a good quality, and a large kind, and the meshes of the nets by which they are caught are about 1½ to 1¾ inches in size, and the length of the drift with which the boats are equipped varies from 330 to 400 fathoms. The white or haddock fishery is likewise vigorously prosecuted by nine or ten boats, manned each by a crew of six men, and which, on an average, bring on shore every day they can get to sea, from L.8 to L.9 worth of very fine fish, for which Forres and the surrounding country furnish a ready market. The produce of this branch annually may be reckoned at L.2000.

The average produce of the fishings may therefore be thus computed :

Salmon, 600 boxes, at L.5 per box,	L.3000	0	0
Herrings, 2000 barrels, at L.1 per barrel,	2000	0	0
Haddock and cod-fishing, at L.8 or L.9,	2000	0	0
	<hr/>		
	L.7000	0	0

Navigation.—There are twelve vessels belonging to the sea-port of Findhorn in the parish, measuring in all 1000 tons register. Foreign vessels also visit the place, bringing sometimes two cargoes yearly of iron, tar, and timber from the Baltic, and one of timber from British North America. The articles brought coastways are about 25,000 barrels of Sunderland and Newcastle coals, which sell from 1s. 9d. to 2s. per barrel; 7000 bolls lime from the same places, which sell from 2s. 9d. to 3s. per boll; 400 tons coals from the Frith of Forth, which sell from 13s. to 17s. per ton; 150,000 slates from Balachulish, which sell from L.2, 15s. to L.3 per thousand; 300 tons iron from Wales and Staffordshire, which sells from L.8 to L.14 per ton, according to size and quality; 400 tons salt from Liverpool, which sells from L.1, 16s. to L.2 per ton; 5000 to 6000 bushels bone-dust for manure, which sells from 2s. 6d. to 2s. 8d. per bushel. There are regular trading smacks from London, Leith, and Liverpool, which bring general cargoes of merchandise for Forres, Elgin, and Nairn. There is also regular communication by steam-vessels with these different places. The produce of the country around, sent coastways yearly, may be about 2000 barrels of herrings, 10,000 quarters of grain of every description; 200 boxes of eggs, each containing 160 dozen; 2000 loads of timber, chiefly from the forests of Daruaway and Altyre.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—The nearest market-town is Forres, to which there is easy access by an excellent turnpike road to Findhorn, and which strikes off, at the bridge of Kinloss, by a branch eastward to Burghead and Elgin. The ride in this direction is one of the most beautiful in the district. Betwixt Forres and Findhorn there is a daily post. The distance is five miles.

Village.—The village of greatest importance is Findhorn, signifying in Gaelic *the mouth of the Erne*, and hence by Highlanders called Invererne. It is a burgh of barony, and contains a population of above 800. It is the sea-port of Forres. The harbour, formed in a great measure by nature, is among the safest on the coast; and, there being two quays of hewn stone, one of them erected lately with a breast-work, by which it is joined to the old pier, at a cost above L.1300, excellent accommodation is afforded for shipping. The entrance from the Frith at the mouth of the river is, indeed, a little intricate, by reason of a bar that shifts with heavy floods and strong easterly winds; but the intricacy is very

much obviated by numerous active and skilful pilots, who understand the windings so well, that little damage has ever occurred,—one vessel only of all that have entered for the last forty years having been injured; and even this accident was said to have been occasioned by the fault of the master. The truth is, that both the run at the entrance and the harbour itself are capable of receiving much larger vessels than usually frequent them. The depth of water in the shallowest part of the channel is $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet during the lowest neap-tide, and in stream tide it is from 13 to 17 feet, being greater than that of any other harbour on the coast from Aberdeen to Inverness. The bay, from the bar at the north to its termination south, is three and a half miles long, its breadth varying from five-eighths of a mile to two miles. A great part of it is dry at low water; but in the run of the river, which, in some places, is about half a mile broad, there is, at the lowest ebb of stream tides, from 12 to 15 feet water, and the largest vessels which enter lie afloat at low water in perfect safety.

Ship-building.—This is a branch of trade which has of late been carried on with considerable spirit, under the auspices of Mr Thomas Davidson, and other enterprising merchants. They have brought a ship-carpenter from the south, who has settled in the place, and employs about twelve men. For the last five years ten vessels altogether, built of the fine oak and larch of Darnaway, have been sent off the stocks into the watery element.

Ecclesiastical State.—Kinloss, disjoined from Alves, Rafford, and Forres, was erected into a separate parish in 1657. The patrons are the Earl of Moray and Brodie of Lethen. After the Reformation, the abbey was for some time used as a place of worship, and might have so been to this day, had not its dilapidation early taken place, as already narrated. The present church was built in 1765, and in 1830 it underwent a thorough repair; but, although too small for the accommodation of the parish, the heritors would not enlarge it. The kirk-session, however, with their consent, made an addition to it, capable of accommodating 200 additional sitters, and now there is sufficient room for all the church-going population. The people belong all to the Establishment, with the exception of one family of Independents, consisting of man and wife, and another of Episcopalians, two members even of which are in communion with the church. The attachment felt towards the Church is strong, and the contributions annually made in behalf of its religious schemes liberal, being between L. 15

and L. 20. The stipend was augmented in 1819 to 66 bolls, 2½ lippies meal; 94 bolls, 3 firlots, 1 peck, 1½ lippies barley; 18 bolls, 3 firlots, 2 pecks, ¾ lippies oats; and L.60, 10s. 6½d. Sterling. The teind is exhausted. The extent of the glebe is between four and five acres, value about L. 1, 8s. per acre. The manse was built in 1820, and, having been repaired in 1839, is at present in good condition. The accommodation it affords is not extensive: but the plan, furnished by the late Mr Gillespie of Edinburgh, is very neat. The parish church is centrally situated, being distant from the extremities of the parish on either side about two miles. There is no chapel of ease, but there is a place of worship in Findhorn wherein a Dissenting preacher at one time officiated. When the present incumbent was admitted, more than twenty years ago, it was vacant, and under the burden of some debt. This debt he paid off, and, with consent of the subscribers, took possession of the house, and he has since been in the practice of preaching in it on the Sabbath evening, generally once a month.

Education.—In the parish, there are two schools,—the parochial, and an Assembly school in Findhorn. The parochial schoolmaster's salary is L.35, his fees are about L.12, his other emoluments may amount to L.10, besides the yearly allowance from Mr Dick's bequest to the schoolmasters in the shires of Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray, which may be something about L.30. The present incumbent keeps an assistant, and the school is well and efficiently taught. The teacher at Findhorn has a salary of L. 20 per annum from the General Assembly's Education Committee, and his fees may amount to other L.12. The proprietor, H. A. J. Munro of Novar, who gives liberally every encouragement to educational institutions and plans, allows him L.10 per annum for cow's grass and other accommodations. A school-room and dwelling-house, affording excellent accommodation, were built a few years ago. The building cost something above L.160, which sum was raised by private subscriptions, and public collections in the parish. By the want of population in the immediate locality, the attendance on the parish school is comparatively small; but, betwixt these two schools, and a female school supported partly by subscription, there are from 150 to 170 children attending the means of instruction generally,—a proof that the people, for the most part, are alive to the benefits of education. There are not above five or six persons in the parish above fifteen

years of age unable to read. Sabbath schools are taught; and, in Findhorn especially, a visible change for the better has occurred, since the facilities of intellectual and religious instruction have been increased.

Savings Bank.—A savings bank, in connection with that in Forres, on Government security, was lately established, and it is to be hoped it will meet with the encouragement and support which such useful institutions deserve.

Library.—A small library, set on foot in Findhorn by collections, and another in connection with the General Assembly's school, have been found very beneficial. The books, chiefly of a religious and moral description, are eagerly sought and read by old and young.

Friendly Society.—A Friendly Society, formed about forty years ago, is continuing to flourish,—its funds amounting at present to L.880, of which L.300 is lent on heritable security, and the remainder is in the British Linen Company's Bank.

Poor.—The average number of poor receiving parochial aid is 40. The only funds for their relief, exclusive of the interest of a small mortified sum, are the weekly collections at church, amounting on an average to L. 50 per annum. There are occasional donations from the heritors to the amount of L. 10 a year, and several benevolent individuals in the parish distribute every year from 150 to 200 barrels of coals among the most destitute.

The allowance given in the course of the year to each pauper, varies from L. 1 to L.3, which would be altogether inadequate to their support, did not their relatives and neighbours kindly assist them. A laudable spirit of independence, too, prompts them to make as much as possible by their own industry, and for the last twenty years not an individual from among the numerous poor that are in the parish, has gone forth from it publicly to beg. There has been no assessment hitherto, but how long this state of matters, however desirable, may continue, is difficult to say. The population is on the increase, and if pauperism should increase along with it, nothing can prevent a change in the system which the kirk-session has been labouring to uphold, save increasing liberality on the part of the non-resident heritors, who have hitherto in any way, borne but a very trifling share of the burden.

Fairs.—Three fairs are held annually at Findhorn, one in October, one in March, and one in July, on the second Wednesday (old style) of each month, chiefly for sheep, cattle, and horses.

Inns.—Of licensed public-houses and whisky shops, there is a superabundant number, no fewer than 13. That they have a demoralising tendency is most apparent.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

From the preceding statements it may be seen, that the state of this parish in regard both to its agricultural, mercantile, and educational resources, has been considerably improved within half a century. By the attention that is paid to the system of farming and breed of stock, husbandry has been carried to a much higher degree of perfection—the means of communication by roads and bridges have become more ample—the education, dress, lodging, have become greatly meliorated, and an appearance of cultivation, beauty, and prosperity, has been given to the whole aspect of the parish, which it did not before possess. The improvements on the coast have kept pace with those in the interior. The harbour accommodation has been enlarged and the shipping increased. Of the houses built, both in town and country, the outward appearance and internal arrangements are vastly superior to the old, and the seafaring as well as the agricultural population, the tradesmen and the peasantry, are better educated, better fed, better clad, and better accommodated, than used to be the generation of their fathers. The tide of prosperity which has thus so rapidly flowed in commerce and agriculture, has, it is to be hoped, been accompanied by progressive advancement in the cultivation of the moral soil, and the attainment of what is the true riches,—the excellence of Christian character.

February 1842.