

UNITED PARISHES OF DYKE AND MOY. *

PRESBYTERY OF FORRES, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. MARK AITKEN, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name of the parish of Dyke is supposed to be the Gaelic word *Dig*, signifying a *water drain or ditch*; that of *Moy*, the Gaelic word *Maigh*, signifying a *plain*.

Boundaries, &c.—The parish is situate on the south coast of the Moray Frith, and on the west side of the river Findhorn. Its extent is about 27 square miles.

Topographical Appearances.—The forest of Darnaway covers a considerable extent in the southern part of the parish, concealing from the view the park and open grounds around the castle of Darnaway. The ground slopes gradually to the north, with a gently undulating surface. After leaving the forest, the view is particularly rich and picturesque. To the left are the fine woods around Erodie House; and, northward from it, appear the church and village of Dyke, embosomed in trees, and almost hid from the view. Behind the village, to the north-west, the ground rises considerably, with fine fields sloping towards the south, surrounded by trees and hedge-rows; while the Muckle Burn, and two smaller rivulets, fringed with natural alder, wind their way through the low ground, adding greatly to the beauty of the scene. Farther to the north are seen the woods and House of Dalvey. The ground still retains its undulating character, as far as the ancient boundaries of the parish of Dyke extend. The rich level land of Moy and Kincorth, ornamented by hedgerows and avenues, stretch from Dalvey to the sand-hills of Culbin. These cover an immense extent along the shore from east to west, relieved at the east end by the few acres which have as yet escaped devastation upon the estate of Binsness. To the north-west, there is a consi-

* Drawn up by Mr William Ogilvie, Parochial Schoolmaster of Dyke.

derable extent of moor and marsh, of which 150 acres were planted last year by the proprietor, J. M. Grant, Esq. of Glenmorriston. There still remain at least 200 acres fit for the growth of timber, which are to be planted next season. A few years ago, Robert Grant, Esq. of Kincorth, planted a belt skirting the sandhills, which is thriving admirably; and when the whole extent is covered with wood, it will prove a great shelter from the north, and conceal from the view a tract of ground, which at present has a very unsightly appearance.*

Meteorology.—This parish is not inferior in point of climate to any part of the county. There are no prevalent distempers arising from local causes. Many cases occur of individuals attaining nearly to the age of a hundred years.

Hydrography.—The Moray frith bounds the parish to the north. The shore is low and sandy. The water is exceedingly shallow for a considerable distance from the shore. The parish is well supplied with perennial springs, none of which possess any medicinal properties. The river Findhorn forms the eastern boundary of the parish, separating it, except in two points, from the parishes of Forres and Kinloss. The volume of water is not generally great; but the river, from having its source in the mountains, and from other causes, is subject to high floods. In 1829 it rose to an unprecedented height, and was comparatively more flooded than any of the rivers which were influenced by the rains that fell at that particular period. It carried down an immense quantity of sand, which it deposited in the bay of Findhorn, lessening its depth, over a surface of three square miles, to the extent of eighteen inches. For several years the fishing was almost destroyed; but it has been gradually improving, and is now nearly equal in value to what it was before the flood of 1829. After leaving its rocky bed below the suspension bridge, it is necessary to embank it, to prevent it from making encroachments on the cultivated ground. These embankments have cost an enormous expense, and require constant repair. When the river is flooded, such is the strength and velocity of its current, that it bursts all its artificial barriers, and sweeps resistlessly every thing before it. Several small trouting

* In the Hardmuir, to the north of the great post road, a little knoll, surmounted by a clump of fir trees, is pointed out as the scene of the meeting between the weird sisters of Forres and the Thane of Glamis. The blasted heath is now covered with a thriving plantation. It is contended by some, that, in this instance, tradition is at variance with history. But were this proved to be the case, facts cannot now deprive the "Harmore scene" of the interest which tradition and poetry have thrown around it.

streams run through the parish, of which the largest is the Muckle Burn: all of them fall into the Findhorn.

*Geology.**—The most remarkable feature in the geology of the parish, is the sand-hills of Culbin. About the beginning of the thirteenth century, a section of the most fertile land in Moray, stretching along the sea-coast for several miles, was overblown and devastated by an irruption of sand from the westward. The immediate cause of this catastrophe is supposed to have been that partial upraising of the coast out of the bed of the ocean now ascertained to have taken place within the present geological era, which, by exposing to the action of the atmosphere the accumulated silicious detritus of ages, furnished the magazine from which this fearful inundation was derived. The estate of Culbin, once a valuable patrimony, is now an arid waste of shifting sand, destitute of any herbage except bent (*Carex arenaria*, or *Ammophila arundinacea*). Many of the sand-hills rise to the height of 100 feet above the level of the sea; and, when sections are exposed, they exhibit a species of stratification similar to a series of superimposed beds in a sandstone quarry.

Proceeding upwards from the sea, along the course of the river Findhorn, the first rock exposed is at the suspension-bridge over the river, on the great post road. It is a coarse concretionary limestone, containing schist, iron pyrites, and occasionally crystals of galena or lead-ore. This bed in Moray forms the uppermost section of the old red sandstone. Between Findhorn bridge and the sea no rocky strata are exposed, the whole district being covered over by a mass of diluvium of great thickness; but should strata be detected between this point and the sea, they will be found to belong to newer formations than the old red sandstone. From the bridge up to the promontory of Sluie, a succession of magnificent sections of old red sandstone is exposed. These deposits belong to the middle or gray beds of the system, and are characterized by containing organic remains in considerable variety and abundance, of which teeth and scales of fossil fish of the genus *Holoptychius* have been determined. At Sluie the sandstone beds terminate abruptly, and are met by an almost vertical cliff of gneiss and granite, belonging to the primary series of rocks. At this junction, there is no upheavement of the newer or sandstone beds from the general inclination of about 14° , while the primary rocks are nearly vertical. From this absence of dis-

* Communicated by Arthur Duff, Esq. Elgin.

zurbance in the newer rocks, it is inferred, that the primary beds were raised to their present angle before the deposition of the sandstone. From Sluie to the head of the parish, the primary rocks only are found. The noble domain of Darnaway, with its adjoining forest of oak, occupies the primary and old red sandstone section of the parish. That portion of it which rests on the limestone and newer deposits, which are always characterized by a gently undulating surface, is studded by gentlemen's seats, and is highly cultivated.

Botany.—This parish presents rather an interesting field to the botanist. The sea-coast, the banks of the Findhorn, and the woods of Darnaway and Brodie, are worthy of being better explored than they have hitherto been. There was collected by the late James Brodie, Esq. of Brodie, a large and valuable Herbarium; but it contains few specimens gathered within the county of Moray. It is now in the possession of David Stewart, Esq. Edinburgh. Near Brodie House, the rare and beautiful *Pyrola uniflora*, now termed *Monesis grandiflora*, was at one period found; but it has now entirely disappeared,—probably from the spot where it grew being overgrown with furze. In the Darnaway forest, and in the park and woods of Brodie, are many splendid specimens of oak, ash, and beech. At Earlsmill, on the Darnaway property, are two magnificent trees,—one an ash, and the other a beech, which were noticed in the old Statistical Account. At the time of its publication, the ash measured 14 feet 10 inches in girth. It now measures 17 feet 7 inches. In 1824, it lost two of its largest branches, and is now a splendid ruin, fast going to decay. In the centre of it, there is a cavity large enough to admit of three men standing upright. The beech is still in full vigour, and has increased in girth from 14 feet 7 inches to 16 feet. On the property of William Brodie, Esq. of Brodie, and near the boundary line which separates the parishes of Dyke and Auldearn, are two Scotch firs (*Pinus sylvestris*), which are especially deserving of notice. Since so much of the old pine forests of Scotland have fallen before the woodman's axe, there are comparatively few fine large specimens of this tree to be seen. These two are called, by way of pre-eminence, the King and the Queen. One of them measures, at the height of three feet from the ground, 12 feet 8 inches in circumference. The other is somewhat less. The smaller of the two stands on rather high ground, and, towering, as it does, far above its comparatively puny neighbours, has been

shorn of some of its branches by the westerly blasts, and the symmetry of its top has been thus partially destroyed, without adding to its picturesque beauty; but the other, with its massy and deeply-furrowed trunk, its giant branches beautifully arranged and grouped together, and spreading over a space measuring 67 feet in diameter, has, from its lower situation, escaped the ravages of the tempest, and is surpassed by few, if any, of the same species in Scotland.

In the garden of Dalvey, there is a venerable apple tree, which still blossoms richly, and bears some fruit of inferior quality. It is impossible to ascertain its age; but it is conjectured, with some appearance of truth, that it was planted by the monks of Pluscarden, at the time that Dalvey, then called Grangehill, belonged to that priory. The wood is very much decayed, and the tree, long ere this, would have fallen to the ground if it had not been supported.

In the park near Brodie House, there is a plant of *Magnolia purpurea*, grown to the height of 18 feet.

The following list, selected chiefly from Mr Gordon's "Collectanea for a Flora of Moray," comprehends the rarer plants found within the parish:—

Hippuris vulgaris	Saxifraga stellaris*	Listera ovata
Veronica montana	aizoides*	Typha latifolia
Circeæ alpina	Clinopodium vulgare	Carex incurva
Rhynchospora alba	Cochlearia Anglica	pauciflora
Scirpus lacustris	Danica	teretiusecula
Eleocharis multicaulis	Erysimum Alliaria	stricta
fruitans	Geranium pyrenaicum	Carex sylvatica
Milium effusum	Corydalis claviculata	Spergula subulata
Epilobium hirsutum	Cnicus heterophyllus	Mentha sylvestris
roseum	Petasites vulgaris	Ballota nigra.

Zoology.—The roe (*Cervus capreolus*) is found in the Darnaway forest, and in the woods of Brodie. The fox (*Canis vulpes*), the badger (*Ursus meles*), the polecat and weasel (*Mustelæ*), are frequently to be met with. The common hare (*Lepus timidus*), is abundant. Rabbits (*L. cuniculus*), burrow in great numbers throughout the plantations and in the sand-hills. They are very destructive to the crops. Notwithstanding a constant war of extermination carried on against them, it is found impossible, from the extent of cover, to eradicate them.

Reptiles.—Among the reptiles may be mentioned the viper (*Coluber berus*), the adder (*Anguis eryx*), and lizards (*Lacertæ*).

* Both these are alpine plants, and have been carried down from the higher regions by the river. A single specimen only of *Saxifraga stellaris* was found near Moy Carse by Dr Innes of Forres subsequently to the floods of 1829.

Birds.—There are several rookeries in the parish. Whatever opinion may be entertained elsewhere, the farmers in this quarter do not look upon the rooks as the “farmer’s friend,” and would be glad to get rid of them. They think, and not without reason, that the good which they do is far more than counterbalanced by the ravages which they commit upon the young braird and the potato crops. Pheasants (*Phasianus colchicus*), are very numerous. The cross-bill (*Loxia curvirostra*), the starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), the woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*), the golden-crested wren (*Motacilla regulus*), the quail (*Tetrao coturnix*), the siskin (*Fringilla spinus*), all build in the parish. A beautiful specimen of the snowy day-owl (*Surnia nyctea*), was shot some years ago in the sand-hills.

Amongst the water-fowl, which frequent the small lochs and marshy ground near the sea-coast, are the following: The wild-swallow (*Anas cygnus ferus*), white-fronted wild-goose (*A. albifrons*), scaup-duck (*A. Marila*), shieldrake (*A. tadorna*), pin-tailed duck (*A. acuta*), long-tailed duck (*A. glacialis*), golden-eye (*A. clangula*), tufted-duck (*A. fusca*), gooseander (*Mergus merganser*), auk or razor-bill (*Alca torda*). The great northern diver (*Colymbus glacialis*), is sometimes to be met with in the bay of Findhorn. A specimen of the bittern (*Ardea stellaris*), was shot in a small loch, in 1839, in the Brodie woods. A great variety of terns (*Sterna*), breed upon the sand-hills of Culbin. Thousands of the black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*), breed upon an islet in a small loch in the Darnaway forest.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Eminent Characters.—Among the eminent individuals connected with this parish, may be mentioned James Stewart, known as “the good Regent,” who was Earl of Moray in the reign of his sister, the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots.

Alexander Brodie of Brodie, who lived during the usurpation of Oliver Cromwell, was a man of great piety, learning, and ability. He was twice chosen a Lord of Session, but from his retired and domestic habits, accepted the office with reluctance, and soon resigned. He was one of the commissioners sent to treat with Charles II. at the Hague and at Breda. He left a diary, of which extracts were published about the middle of the last century, which illustrate some parts of the history of the times in which he lived.

The late James Brodie of Brodie was a man of considerable talent and scientific acquirements. He especially distinguished

himself as a botanist, and added a considerable number of plants to the British Flora.

Land-owners.—The Earl of Moray; William Brodie Esq. of Brodie; Norman M'Leod, Esq. of Dalvey; James M. Grant, Esq. of Glenmorrison and Moy; Robert Grant, Esq. of Kin-corth; John P. Grant, Esq. of Rothiemurchus and Binsness.

Parochial Registers.—The earliest date of the parochial registers is 1640. They consist of eleven volumes of different sizes. Before the date of the registers which are now filling up, there are several blanks. Since 1783, they have been regularly kept.

Antiquities.—Forming the back wing of the castle of Darnaway, stands an ancient hall, measuring 89 feet long by 85 feet broad. Its lofty roof is supported by massy beams of oak, and resembles those of the Parliament House of Edinburgh, and Guildhall, London. It is said to have been erected by Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray. A large table of oak, and a chair of the same material, which bear evident marks of great antiquity, are still preserved as memorials of the office and hospitality of the Regent.

Near the northern approach to Brodie House, is a sort of obelisk, about six feet high, forming a parallelogram. On one side is a cross, elaborately carved, and on the other a number of rudely sculptured fabulous animals. It was found in digging out the foundations of the present church, and was claimed by some of the parishioners as a grave-stone, a purpose for which it was obviously never designed. It was put up in the village in commemoration of Rodney's victory over the Count de Grasse, and from that circumstance received the name of Rodney's Cross. A few years ago, it was removed to the Park of Brodie. It is very much defaced, and no trace of any inscription can now be seen upon it.

In the church yard of Dyke, there is a grave-stone belonging to the Brodie family of the date of 1448. The inscription is still perfectly distinct and legible.

About eighteen years ago, there was found in the churchyard, imbedded in a heap of rubbish, a grave-stone, which possesses a peculiar and melancholy interest, not so much from its antiquity, for its date is only 1613, but as the only existing memorial of a once powerful and opulent family, now extinct. Even the spot where the ashes of the members of the family repose, cannot now be pointed out. Fortunately it had escaped injury, and is quite entire. A few years after it was found, it was placed for its better preservation in the church.

Upon the upper part of the stone are engraved the arms of the family, with the initials of the "Laird and Ladie," and underneath is the following inscription :

Valter Kinnaird : Elizabeth Innes
 The buildars of this bed of stane,
 Are Laird and Ladie of Coubine.
 Qhilk twa and thairs, when
 Braith is gane, pleise God,
 Vil sleip this bed within—
 1613.

About fifteen years ago, there was dug out of a steep bank above the Findhorn, a coffin of large dimensions, composed of flag-stones, containing the remains of a human skeleton.

Ancient Coins.—Several of the coins noticed in the old Account as having been found in the parish are in the hands of private collectors.

Modern Buildings.—Darnaway Castle is a large oblong pile. When seen from a distance, it has a very imposing appearance, rising in proud pre-eminence above the surrounding forest. It stands upon a gentle eminence, commanding a magnificent view of rich and varied scenery. The park below the castle presents a fine field for the landscape gardener. It contains great variety of ground, and natural capabilities, which, from the non-residence of the noble proprietor, have not been improved to the full extent of which they are susceptible. During the last two years, the family have resided at the castle, and several improvements have already been made. Walks have been formed of immense extent, by the Honourable John Stewart, leading to and opening up scenery of surpassing beauty upon the banks of the Findhorn.

Brodie House is an irregular, castellated building. A large addition to the old mansion-house was built by the present proprietor in the old English style. The ground around is naturally an uninteresting flat; but the fineness of the wood, for the growth of which the soil is admirably adapted, the taste with which the ground has been laid out, its numerous avenues of noble trees, and an artificial pond, have supplied the place of natural beauty, and make it a delightful residence. The ceiling of the drawing-room is divided into compartments, and is curiously ornamented with grotesque figures, formed of stucco, in alto relievo. An excellent collection of paintings adorns the walls of the public rooms, several of which are of great value.

Nearly occupying the site of the old Castle of Dalvey stands a handsome modern building, pleasantly situated upon a fine knoll, overlooking the Muckle Burn, which passes it in front. The gar-

den, which is open to every lover of Flora, is an object of great attraction. It is stocked with an extensive and varied selection of the most beautiful plants and flowers. The other modern mansion-houses are those of Moy and Kincorth. The material used in building is sandstone.

III.—POPULATION.

According to the census of 1831, the population of the parish was	1457
1841,	1365
The number of families in 1841,	295
Average number of births for the preceding seven years, as per register,	227
marriages,	97
deaths,	224

The decrease is partly owing to emigration, and partly to the enlargement of farms.

Norman Macleod, Esq. of Dalvey, is the only proprietor who constantly resides in the parish. The Earl of Moray has resided for the last two years. Robert Grant, Esq. of Kincorth, resides for several months in the parish every season.

There are three families of independent fortune in the parish, besides the landed proprietors. Five of the proprietors hold lands of the yearly value of upwards of L.50.

There is one person fatuous and dumb, and one blind.

The people seem contented and happy, and enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts and advantages of society. They are generally decent, industrious, and sober; church-going in their habits, and attached to the church of their fathers. A great improvement has taken place in the morals and intelligence of the people, within the last twenty years.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—The number of acres under tillage is 3218 imperial. There is scarcely an acre capable of cultivation, which has not already been brought under the plough. Of pasture there are 1286 acres, and 2802 acres under wood. The rest of the parish, to the extent of 9974 acres, is an irreclaimable waste. There is no undivided common.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land is L. 1, 15s. per Scotch acre.

The gross rental of the parish is about L.5632.

Price of Labour.—Farm-servants receive from L. 10 to L. 14 per annum with board; women-servants, from L. 3 to L. 4. Day-labourers gain 1s. 8d. in summer, and 1s. 3d. in winter, without victuals. During harvest, the price of labour is considerably higher. A mason receives 2s. 6d., and a carpenter 2s. a day.

Husbandry.—On the estate of Darnaway, the tenants are bound to follow the five-shift rotation; and on the other properties, the six-shift. The farms are generally let for a period of nineteen years. They vary in size from 40 to 150 acres Scots. The average produce of wheat is $4\frac{1}{4}$ quarters; of barley, 6 quarters; of oats, $5\frac{1}{2}$ quarters per acre, Scots. Wheat weighs from 60 to 65 lbs.; barley from 52 to 57 lbs.; oats, from 40 to 45 lbs. per bushel. The average produce of hay is 150 stones per acre Scots.

Improvements.—Subsoil ploughing and furrow-draining have been tried upon a farm belonging to the Earl of Moray; and there is no doubt that there will be an ample remuneration for the outlay. Several acres have been trenched with the spade during last winter. Lime and marl have been extensively used. Bone dust is also in general use. It is planted or sown with the hand at the rate of ten bushels to the acre, and produces excellent crops of turnips, for which the soil is well adapted.

The subsoil varies considerably. In some places, it is a fine open sand, or gravel; in others, it is composed of a hard pan, called Moray coast, impervious to water. Furrow-draining and subsoil or trench-ploughing might be profitably introduced to a great extent.

The few hedgerows are generally ill-kept and broken. They serve to enrich the landscape, but are of little use as fences. From the expense of driving material, there are very few stone dikes. The most common fence is paling, which is cheap, and of easy carriage.

Great improvements have been made within these few years upon farm-steadings. Still, however, much remains to be done, in that respect, especially on small farms.

There are sixteen thrashing mills in the parish, for the most part worked by horses.

Woods.—The wood consists of oak, ash, beech, elm, Scotch fir, larch, spruce, birch, sycamore, horse-chestnut, and alder. The plantations are generally well and regularly kept. The management of the Darnaway forest, as to pruning, thinning, &c. does very great credit to Mr Cutler the forester. His improved plan of raising oak plants from the seed deserves to be especially noticed, and made extensively known. The bed intended to be sown, which, in this case, is 40 feet square, is excavated to the depth of a foot. Sleepers are then laid three feet apart,

and floored over with slab deals in the same way as a room, with this difference only, that wooden pegs are used in place of nails. The foot of earth, which was previously taken out, is now replaced upon the floor. The seed-beds are formed three feet wide, with a foot between them. The seed is then sown and covered with two inches of earth, which is trodden down firmly with the foot, to prevent mice from destroying the acorns. The beds remain in this state till the plants make their appearance, when the earth is gently loosened with a dung fork, to give relief to the plants, and to allow them to throw out their fibres more freely. When they are fit for transplanting, a spade is run along from end to end of the beds with its mouth kept close to the floor, and the plants are picked up by the hand, as the spade turns them up. They are then carried to the forest, and planted in the same way as seedling firs. One advantage obviously resulting from this plan, is the great saving of expense in planting; and another is, that, during the whole process, every fibre of the root, though as fine as a hair, escapes injury; and, when planted, the young oaks take root and grow at once, whereas by the old method the roots are all cut, and it is generally the third year before they recover from the check, and a great many of them die.

There are regular sales of timber, fit for boat and ship building, and general carpenter-work, in the Darnaway forest and the other plantations.

The Scotch acre is planted by Mr Grigor of the Forres nurseries with 4500 Scotch firs and larches for 13s.

Fishings.—There is a salmon fishing of considerable value upon the Findhorn. The sea-shore yields an inexhaustible supply of excellent cockles, which not only afford a wholesome addition to the meals of the common people, but give employment and subsistence to a number of women, who sell them through the country and the neighbouring towns. It is calculated that the produce of this bed exceeds L. 100 per annum, besides what is gathered for home consumption by the cottagers.

Produce.—The average gross value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows;

Wheat,	-	-	L.5976	0	0
Barley,	-	-	4717	0	0
Oats,	-	-	3263	0	0
Hay,	-	-	674	0	0
Pasture,	-	-	2084	0	0
Turnips,	-	-	2285	0	0

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Potatoes,	L.790	0	0
Thinning and felling of wood,	1493	0	0
Gardens,	140	0	0
Salmon fishings, and cockles,	400	0	0
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	L.21,822	0	0

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There is no market-town in the parish. The nearest is Forres, distant about four miles from the centre of the parish. There are several small villages; Dyke, Kintessack, Broom of Moy, and Whitemire. The population of the largest does not exceed 200:

Means of Communication.—The nearest post-office is that of Forres. The great post-road, from Aberdeen to Inverness, on which the mail and two stage-coaches run daily, traverses the parish from east to west, and county roads intersect it in all directions. A great number of bridges span the burns which flow through the parish, and an elegant suspension-bridge connects it with Forres.

Ecclesiastical State.—The Established Church is the only place of public worship in the parish. It is conveniently situated. It was built in 1781, and is in good repair. It is seated for betwixt 800 and 900. No seat rents are exacted. The number of communicants belonging to the parish, and from the neighbourhood, is about 250. The manse was built about fifty-one years ago. It received repairs and an addition in 1822. The stipend is 16 chalders, of which one-half is barley, and the other meal; besides L.8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements, and L.20 Scots, in lieu of a grass glebe. There are two glebes, consisting of 10 acres, valued at L.16.

Two hundred and forty-nine families attend the Established Church. There are 43 Dissenting, and 3 Episcopalian families in the parish.

Education.—There is one parish school, the teacher of which has more than the legal accommodation, and the maximum salary. This parish is within the bounds embraced by the Dick Bequest. The allowance from that source varies according to circumstances. The average for the last seven years allocated to this parish is L.34 per annum. The session-clerkship is worth about L.5. The school-fees amount to about L.30. The branches taught are, Greek, Latin, French, mathematics, &c. For the purpose of elevating the standard of education in the parish, the school-master has hitherto taught geography and English grammar gratis.

Till within these few years, there was a school in the village of

Kintessack, which was given up for want of sufficient support. There is great need of one in that locality; and there is now some prospect of its being established under more favourable circumstances. There is a Society school in Edinkillie, near the confines of this parish, which puts the benefits of education within the reach of those who are at too great a distance from the parish school. There is a female school in the village of Dyke, the teacher of which has a house and garden, and a small endowment. There is another female school in the village, and one in Kintessack, wholly supported by school-fees. The number of children attending school in the parish, is about 200. There is an annual sum of L.8, 10s. 6d. arising from two mortifications for the education of the children of the poor. There are none in the parish above ten years of age, who cannot read.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons on the poor's roll, is 90; and the average amount of collections, for the last seven years, is L.43, 6s. 8d. There are, besides, three bolls of barley, from a mortification for the use of the poor, and the interest of L.100 for the clothing of poor children. The allowance to each varies from 2s. 6d. to L.1, 10s. per annum, according to circumstances. Besides these public funds, the proprietors and their families distribute, during the winter, coals, money, and clothing to the most necessitous upon the respective estates.

Inns—There are 7 ale-houses; far more than are necessary for the accommodation of the parish. To the credit of the inhabitants, it may be added, that they are not much frequented.

Fuel.—Turf and wood are in most general use for fuel among the poorer classes. From the breadth of plantation in the parish, wood fire is cheap. Ships deliver coals, when the weather permits, within the parish, opposite to the harbour of Findhorn. The nearest sea-port is Nairn.

March 1842.