

of Rathven and Deskford; and the extensive forests belonging to the Earl of Seafield afford, at all times, abundance of fire-wood.

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May 1842.

PARISH OF BOHARM.

PRESBYTERY OF ABERLOUR, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. L. W. FORBES, A. M., MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

IN very early times, there seems to have been a parish of Arndilly, then called Artendol, the church of which stood on the eminence which is now the site of the mansion-house of Arndilly, on the banks of the Spey, in the south-west corner of the present parish. Vestiges of such ecclesiastical occupation of this lovely spot remained till within the memory of man, the ruins of the church being cleared away to make room for part of the offices of the mansion-house, and an equivalent being then given for the glebe, which now forms part of the lawn.

In the chartulary of Moray, as quoted by Shaw in his History of the Province, there is a deed recorded, which must be of date about A. D. 1215, by which William, the son of William, the son of Freskyn de Moravia, of a family very distinguished at that time, and possessed of large domains in this district, granted to the cathedral church of Moray "the church of Artendol, with all its pertinents, excepting the corn tithes of the two Davochs, which lay next to his Castle of Bucharin, viz. Bucharin and Achelnathorck, which tithes, by the consent of Brice, Bishop of Moray, were assigned to the granter's chapel of his Castle of Bucharin for the support of a chaplain." If by "Achelnathork" we are to un-

derstand the property now called " Auchlunkart," then these two Davochs constitute the greater part of what was the parish of Boharm down to the year 1788, and it is conjectured that the church at Arndilly having been allowed to go to ruin, perhaps even before the Reformation, the chapel of the Castle of Bucharin, in a much more central and convenient situation, became the place of worship for the whole district, and gave name to the parish.

In the year 1788, the parish of Dundurcos, lying due north from Boharm, on both sides of the Spey, was suppressed, and the part of it which lay to the east of the river was annexed to Boharm, except one small property, Aikenway, which, with the lands on the west side of the river, was annexed to Rothes. The annexation added to Boharm upwards of a third both in extent of surface and in the number of the population.

The old parish is in the county of Banff. The annexation, excepting a small fragment in Banffshire, is in the county of Elgin.

Name.—The name, Bucharin, Bucharn, Boharme, Boharm, is said, in the former Account, and in Shaw's History, to signify in Gaelic "*the bow round the hill,*" and this is very descriptive of the parish as now constituted: for the Spey being the boundary on the west, and the mountain Benagen rising almost abruptly from the bed of that river, the cultivated part of the parish consists chiefly of a circular valley on the south, east, and north sides of the hill. But as this description is only partially applicable to the district so named of old, the old parish containing only one-half of the bow, one is rather inclined to seek another derivation, and to suppose that the castle, whence, as we have seen, the parish had its origin, took its name from its own situation, and bestowed it on its dependent district. It stood on the point where the brook Altarn, now Aldernie, *i. e.* the burn of alders, flows into the Fiddich, which, just at that point, takes a very singular turn in its course. Hence, perhaps, Bucharn, or "*the bend of the alder stream,*" for the name of the castle, and so from the castle to the parish which it originated.

Boundaries and Extent.—The parish, as now formed, is bounded by Mortlach on the south; by Aberlour on the south-west; by Rothes on the west; by Fochabers or Bellie on the north and north-east; by Keith on the east; and by Botriphnie on the south-east. From the boundary with Aberlour at the confluence of the Fiddich with the Spey, it is about 13 miles in length.

From the boundary with Mortlach to that with Bellie, which may be taken for the mean length, the distance is about 9 miles. The breadth from Keith and Botriphnie boundaries to the Spey averages 4 miles; but at the middle of the length, the cultivated and inhabited part is of considerably less breadth; being much compressed by the bulky mass of Benagen, which occupies a very great proportion of the whole surface, and forms the circular valley already mentioned, which, narrow in the middle, and expanding at either end, is all cultivated, both in the bottom and to a considerable distance up the slopes on each side, and to which, and a valley opening into it, from Keith eastward, to a detached district in the eastern angle, and to a narrow strip along the river, interrupted at the middle for about two miles, partly by the peninsular pendicle annexed from Dundurcos to Rothes, and partly by the abrupt ascent of the hill, the cultivation is chiefly confined. On the map, the parish has nearly the figure of a long parallelogram, following the course of the Spey from south to north. The whole, except the strip along the river, lies high above the level of the sea. The summit level of the bottom of the valley running round the hill is 400 feet above the sea level, from which height the valley gradually descends to both ends, till near the junctions with the valley of the Spey, when the descents become very abrupt. In the other valley, opening from the east, the waters divide,—one-half running to the Deveron at twelve miles distance east, the other to the Spey at four miles distance west. The height of Benagen above the sea is 1500 feet, and, on the south and east, the cultivated ground extends nearly half-way up its sides.

Meteorology and Climate.—A register of the weather was kept at the old manse by the late incumbent, now the learned Professor of Humanity and Natural History in King's College, Aberdeen, and one of the ministers of St Machar's, which, from July 1803 to February 1809, has been already published in the Agricultural Survey of Banffshire.

The present incumbent has, since March 1818, but, it is to be feared, with much less accuracy, kept a register both of the weather and of vegetation at the new manse, about three miles nearer the sea, and about fifty feet nearer the sea level.

The prevailing wind is the south-west, particularly in autumn and spring, and it is often very violent, sweeping down the long valley of the Spey, which, till it turns here, runs to the south-east.

After blowing strongly for a day or two, these westerly gales often end in rain or snow. It is observable, that, when very violent, they always send the river down more or less flooded, partly, perhaps, from their own action on the stream, but oftener, it is supposed, by bringing the rains to the upper part of the river before they reach us, or where they are exhausted without reaching us at all.

As spring advances, this district is often visited with cold easterly haars, frequently accompanied with frosty fogs, extremely prejudicial to early vegetation. In the early part of summer, the wind not unfrequently sets in from the north, for a considerable tract of time steadily dry. In summer, thunder is frequent; and, from the proximity of the hills, the accompanying rains are very heavy and destructive. Contrary to what might be expected, the parish is singularly free from early frosts in autumn, and this much mitigates the lateness of its vegetation and harvest. There is always one considerable flood, sometimes two or three in the early part of autumn, and the cold winter rains commence generally about the middle of November.

The climate, except in the strip along the river, where the elevation is small, and the soil gravelly, is cold and moist. The rains are frequent, and the soil is very retentive of moisture, yet the parish is healthy. Its inhabitants are generally vigorous and hardy, though spare, and live long, without affording many instances of extreme longevity. Agues by the recent drainage of the marshes seem to be altogether removed. Fevers, except scarlatina among children, are rare. Measles are seldom fatal; and universal vaccination appears to have altogether banished small-pox. Consumption at the age of from eighteen to twenty-two is rather frequent. Of late, cancers have been common, cutting off at least one victim yearly. The chief complaint of more advanced age is failure of digestion, owing, perhaps, partly to the nature of the climate, but mostly to the almost exclusive use of vegetable food, the large quantity of which necessary for support being easily digested in the days of vigorous youth, but proving burdensome to the organs when their powers become less active.

Hydrography.—There is abundance of spring water in the parish, except in the northern extremity. There are several very strong chalybeates.

The River Spey separates the parish from Rothes on the west,

from the influx of the Fiddich, near the bridge of Craigellachie, down to Ordequish, about a mile above the village of Fochabers, the small peninsula excepted, which has been already noticed as annexed to Rothes, though on the Boharm side, and, excepting also two trifling haughs of this parish, which are on the Rothes side. This rapid, large, and turbulent stream, rising in Lochaber, holds for about ninety miles a direction due south-east, till it strikes upon the abutments of Benagen at the south-west angle of this parish, when it is turned due north for the rest of its course, about sixteen miles, to the Moray Frith, at Garmach. It is strictly a mountain stream, sometimes falling very low, and often very suddenly rising in mighty floods, provincially *spates*, which, on various occasions within memory, have been so large as to fill the whole bottom of the valley (nearly a mile in breadth) with resistless torrents, most destructive to property, and even fatal to life. The flood of 1829, so well chronicled by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, will not soon be forgotten on the banks of the Spey. The river is generally so large in autumn, winter, and spring, as in these seasons to permit the fir timber of the forests of Rothiemurcus, Abernethy, Invereshie, &c. to be floated down in immense rafts to the various timber yards on the bank, and to the sea at Garmach.

The Fiddich, which, descending through the lovely vale of Balveny in Mortlach, skirts this parish on the south and south-west, is a stream of considerable magnitude, beautifully wooded, but, like the Spey, is subject to very destructive floods. The rivulet Aldernie, already mentioned, conveys to the Fiddich the collected waters of the upper part of the parish, while those of the lower part, uniting where the eastern valley meets with the circular valley, form the "Orchill," now the burn of Mulben, which thence descending very rapidly to the Spey, which it joins at the place called Boat of Bridge, has cut a very romantic channel for itself in the rocks through which it passes.

Geology.—Along the south boundary of the parish, in the valley of the Fiddich, and a little distance backward to the hill, gneiss is everywhere to be seen. Northward from this, for more than two-thirds of the length of the circular valley, and up to the summits of the hills, talc slate, dipping to the south, and with a direction north-east, is the prevailing rock; it might be called the universal rock, except that it is traversed by frequent veins of quartz, and by a narrow vein of primitive limestone, which sets off

near Keith from the great limestone formation of Banffshire, and, passing entire through a considerable length of the parish, finally loses itself in a number of small veins, as it approaches the gneiss on the south-west. On the authority of Dr Forbes, it may be stated, that, where the talc slate is penetrated by the quartz veins, Kyanite has been frequently found. The limestone is quarried in many places, both for calcination, and for building stone. As a cement it is peculiarly valuable, particularly for hardening speedily under water, as it contains 30 per cent. of silex. This admixture, however, renders it somewhat less valuable as a manure.

Before this talc rock disappears in the lower part of the valley, mica slate is seen alternating with it; and where the talc, at the junction of the eastern valley, meets with a formation of quartz sandstone, and alternates with this, its colour is changed to pure white, and in consistence it becomes extremely soft and unctuous; so that, in fact, the people in the neighbourhood use it for painting their cottages and furniture.

The rocks of the valley of the Spey are gneiss and quartz, having also a north-east direction, and in the lower part of this parish, when once they pass the deep chasm of the Orchil, forming the lower part of the circular valley, these pass under an immense deposit of red clay and gravel, which forms the whole extensive table-land lying above Fochabers. On the south edge, along the chasm of the Orchil, this deposit is skirted by beds of pure white sand, in layers, in some places horizontal, in others inclined, and again in other places curiously contorted, over which beds the red gravel looks as if it had been poured, following all their contortions and sinuosities. The sand is discovered by the action of the burn or other causes removing the overlapping deposit. Proceeding northward and eastward, the depth of this red stuff becomes exceedingly great. The Spey has cut in upon the west side of it, opposite to Orton House, and formed cliffs of great height, the change of whose colour, from bright red to dark crimson, is a sure prognostic of rain. The brooks which drain off the moisture from the table-land have formed many ravines almost perpendicular in the sides, and in many instances from 50 to 100 feet deep. Nay, it is not uncommon, where a ditch has been cut, or the surface otherwise removed, to find a new ravine formed of great depth in the course of one day by the first heavy rains. Towards the bottom of these ravines, the sides,

before long exposure to the air, are hard and compact, having much the appearance of breccia traversed by horizontal layers of soft sandstone. After some exposure, they become soft. The breccia-like substance is reduced to clay and gravel, and the sandstone to sand, ready to be swept away by the next rain. The bright crimson colour of the torrents poured through these ravines into the Spey has often attracted observation. They are absolutely like torrents of blood. On this table-land no springs rise, except at its edges, to which of course cultivation is confined; while the rest of it, except where planted, for which it is all admirably adapted, remains a barren waste.

Further to the east, and forming the north-eastern side of the lateral valley, are the round hills of Muldeary, the western slope of which is in this parish composed of the same red clay and gravel; abounding here, however, both superficially and in the subsoil, with large boulders of granite and hornblende. These, in some places, are so numerous as to cover the surface, and totally prevent cultivation. They afford building stone of the best quality, and are extensively used in this way.

Zoology.—Red-deer frequently visit the parish, chiefly in their passage from the forests of the interior to the coast, or as marauders from the park of Gordon Castle. Roe-deer are pretty numerous. Hares are most abundant everywhere, and rabbits on the river side. Foxes, polecats, weasels, notwithstanding the exertions of the game-keepers for their destruction, are also numerous. Badgers are not rare. Otters, once very numerous, still frequent the rocks of the Orchil, and the margin of the river. A hedgehog, the only one ever seen here, was lately found on the river bank. Rats are a perfect nuisance, and, of late, the large grey rat has found its way from the coast. Water-rats, with round heads and short tails, are numerous, burrowing in embankments and the sides of mill ponds. Hawks of various kinds are very plentiful, and a few ravens may be seen, which have their domicile in the rocks of Benagen. Rock pigeons are numerous in the glen of the Orchil, and wood pigeons in all the plantations. Rooks visit the parish in large flocks, chiefly from the woods of Gordon Castle and Balveny. The common crow makes also a frequent appearance. Owls, both common and horned, are numerous, and there are the usual abundance and variety of smaller birds. Grouse are plentiful on Benagen and the bounding hills.

Partridges are abundant. Black-game is to be found, and woodcocks are numerous in the early part of winter, or end of autumn. At Arndilly, these have occasionally remained throughout the year, nestling and bringing out their young. A few plovers, snipes, and curlews frequent a large moss in the lower end of the parish, and the few remaining swamps, where also the bittern has been heard and seen.

There is nothing peculiar in the breeds of the domestic cattle. The black-cattle are chiefly Highland or Aberdeenshire. The few sheep are Leicesters, on the arable grounds, and Lintons on the skirts of the hills. There are no goats. The brooks have all a good store of common trout. The river here abounds with salmon in close time, and would naturally abound with them throughout the year, as it did of old; but, during the fishing season, the labours of the fishermen, in the lower part of its course, are now so indefatigable, and the operation of the cruive dike, situated just at the lower extremity of the parish, is now so perfect as a barrier, that comparatively very few fish get up even so far as the fishing grounds here; and the fishery rent of the parish, and of Rothes, has, instead of rising in proportion to the greatly increased value of the commodity, dwindled to a mere trifle. When the water is low, even the Sunday's slap is said to be of little use for the run of the fish, owing to the construction of the dike, and there is a tolerable supply here only when a flood has overtopped the dike, or caused a breach in it, and has in some degree interrupted the fishing below. There is generally, however, a sufficient number of fish to afford excellent sport to the angler. White or sea-trout, and finnocks, are at certain seasons very abundant.

Woods.—A noble forest, chiefly planted by operations of various dates, extends on the estate of Arndilly, to a length of from seven to eight miles, along the banks of the Fiddich and Spey, and stretches far back from these streams up on the slopes, and into the recesses of Benagen. The plantations here consist of Scotch fir, larch, spruce, and various hard-woods. There is a considerable intermixture of natural hard-wood, birch, geen, alder, ash, mountain-ash, and oak, in the lower parts, near the Spey, and a considerable breadth of natural Scotch fir, spreading from the plantations towards the top of the hill. Everywhere, in the valley of the Spey, and at Arndilly as much as anywhere, the Scotch

fir seems to rejoice in the soil and climate, and soon becomes very valuable, and the spread of it here seems likely, at no distant date, if the ground be properly protected from sheep and cattle; to cover the whole western face of Benagen, even to the summit, and make it, indeed, a fine object in the scenery of the country. The larch, here, too, thrives admirably, as indeed does every species of wood usually grown in Scotland. There are three beech trees in the garden of great size. One of them presents a noble pillar in its stem, 17 feet high from the ground, clear of branches, and of a uniform circumference of 11 feet 8 inches, for the whole of this height. A sweet chestnut, also in the garden, has a stem of 13 feet long, and 12 feet round. A birch, near the house, has a circumference of 7 feet, at six feet from the ground.

Further down the river, on the estate of Cairnty, in the angle between the Orchil and the Spey, natural oak and birch cover a considerable extent, and the glen of the Orchil, and the lateral ravines, are thickets of birch. Were this glen inclosed, and planted with oak, &c., it would, at very little loss to the tenants of the pasture, soon become of immense value to the proprietor. Here, too, some plantations of Scotch fir and larch were made about thirty years ago, along the river, which have of late been largely augmented, all in the most thriving state.

In the valley of Boharm, there is, in the upper end, a considerable quantity of natural birch, alder, mountain-ash, and geen, among which, the late proprietor intermixed a large quantity of ash and elm, which have thriven excellently; and lower down, Mr Steuart of Auchlunkart has around his mansion-house a most ornamental plantation, of upwards of eighty Scotch acres of hard wood, with a proportion of larches and spruces, which are gradually thinned out. Ash, oak, elm, beech, &c. &c. thrive here remarkably well, and have already got up to be trees of considerable size, where, only thirty-five years ago, there was little besides rows of ash and plane-tree round the old garden. Mr Steuart has, however, taken great pains with this plantation, great part of the ground having been trenched for it, limed, and sown out with natural grasses. Mr Steuart has also planted, on his hills and moors, in this parish, to the extent of 300 Scotch acres and upwards, Scotch fir, and larches, greatly to the ornament of the country. The Scotch fir here does not thrive so well as on Spey-side, and it is gradually thinned out to give room for the larches, which get on admirably.

Opposite to Auchlunkart, on the Seafield estate, a large plantation has recently been made out, on the lower end of the Benagen range, which already shews well. The summits of the Muldeary hills were planted many years ago with Scotch fir. They look well at a distance, but the wood has come to little size, and requires to be filled up with hard-wood and larch.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The earliest account that the reporter is acquainted with, both of the parish of Boharm and the suppressed parish of Dundurcos, is in Shaw's History of the Province of Moray. There are no special plans or surveys of the parish. It is possessed by four proprietors, by whose families their respective estates have been held for several generations. William Grant M'Dowal, Esq. has the upper part, consisting of Arndilly, Easter and Wester Gauldwell, Newton, and Auchmadies, together with the peninsula of Aikenway, in Rothes, already mentioned, all lying contiguous in a rich, compact, and beautiful estate. Next, downwards, John Duff, Esq. of Drummuir, has the farm of Knockan, which unites with his extensive possessions in Botriphney. Patrick Stewart, Esq., has the barony of Auchlunkart, in the middle of the parish, and the Earl of Seafield has the lower end of it, comprising the lands of Balnabriech, Mulben, Muldeary, Cairnty, and Forgie.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers commence in 1636, and, except in the times of Charles II. and his successor, and another break, from 1784 to 1800, the session record is very full and complete. The registers of baptisms and marriages, however, are defective before 1800, and there is no register of deaths.

Antiquities.—A stone, which was in the wall of the old church at Arndilly, is now built into the wall of one of the wings of the mansion-house. It has rude figures carved on it. As the reporter has seen another stone, and has heard of a third, having very nearly the same figures upon them, the former having been taken out of the foundation of the old church of Inveravon, and the latter being built into the wall of the abbey of Deer, he has sometimes thought that they may be Druidical memorials, and indicate that our forefathers fixed their first Christian temples on the sites of Druidical worship.

* The Castle of Bucharin, now Galval, is an interesting remain, situated on a fine eminence between the brook Aldernie and the Fiddich, having the vale of Balveny stretching out in front; the

vale of Boharm to the east; the lower part of the valley of the Fiddich to the west; and a great extent of well cultivated fields and beautiful woodlands all around. Little of the building is now standing. The former Account states, that, by some excavation among the ruins, some silver spoons (apostle spoons) were found, with round hollow handles, and the mouth or shell completely circular. What became of these relics, the present reporter could never ascertain. Under a stone in the floor of the oratory of the castle, a silver ring was lately found, having a small shield fixed upon it, which exhibited two martial figures. This is now at Arndilly.

Both record and tradition inform us, that, in very early times, there was a bridge over the Spey, near the influx of the Orchil. It appears to have been chiefly of wood, and calculated only for the passage of pedestrians and horses. Where tradition says it crossed the river, the water is very deep close to the rock on the east side, which served for one of the abutments; but this great depth extends but a little way out from the rock, and then the stream shallows to the western bank. Hence one long stretch, not beyond the powers of the largest timber of the country would suffice for getting over the deeper water, and then the progress westward would be comparatively easy by means of supports from the bottom; and such, according to tradition, was the nature of the structure. If liable to injury by a flood, or to decay by time, it could be easily repaired or replaced by the funds allocated for the purpose. This bridge was, for many ages, the only passage of the kind across this large, rapid, and dangerous river, and must have been of great consequence to the whole of the north. Its first erection has been ascribed to the Romans in their progress under Severus, and it is known to have been in existence after the Reformation. It is conjectured that the Reformation having terminated the religious establishment connected with it (to be afterwards mentioned), the bridge thus deprived of means for repair or restoration yielded to decay soon thereafter, or was finally swept away by a flood. Not a vestige of its ruins has been visible for many years. A ferry-boat was substituted for it, and the passage of the river, still very important, came to be called by the anomalous name of "the boat of bridge," while the farms in the neighbourhood still retained their former appellations of Bridgetown of Spey and Upper Briglands. After a lapse of about 250 years, the boat has, in its turn, given place to another bridge, which was

erected a few years ago at the same spot, at the expense of the Honourable Colonel Grant for the Earl of Seafield, Richard Wharton Duff, Esq. of Orton, and Patrick Steuart, Esq. of Auchlunkart, and chiefly in consequence of the exertions of this latter gentleman. It is on the suspension principle, on a plan by Captain Brown, and cost about L.3500. Its span is 235 feet. The towers are lofty structures, of ashlar granite. The toll-house, of polished freestone, is remarkably handsome. Under the authority of the Banffshire Turnpike Act, a very moderate pontage is exacted, little more than sufficient to keep the bridge in repair; but the gentlemen who have so liberally stepped forward with the funds for it will eventually be well repaid, by the increased value of the land on both sides of the river. Since the erection of the bridge of Fochabers, six miles below, and Craigelachie, six miles above, the passage of the river here is not of such general importance as it once was; but the accommodation afforded by this bridge to the public is still very great, and to the districts in the neighbourhood it is invaluable.

Connected with the ancient structure, and on the Boharm side of the river, there was a religious establishment called "the Hospital of St Nicholas at the Bridge of Spey." This seems to have derived its origin from a gift of "Muriel de Pollock, heiress of Rothies, in the beginning of the thirteenth century, of her estate of Inverorkil," (where the bridge was built), "to God, the Virgin, and St Nicholas, in pure alms, for the support of a house there for the reception of poor passengers." (See *Shaw in loco*, and Appendix, No. 2.) Shaw gives also, from the Chartulary of Moray, the deeds by which Andrew Bishop of Moray, about the same time, granted to this hospital the church of Rothies with its pertinents, and by which Alexander II., A. D. 1232, granted a provision for a chaplain here. Shaw also mentions a grant to the hospital of the lands of Aikenway by Walterus de Moravia.

The ruins of the buildings of this establishment remained in considerable extent, till cleared away for the approach to the present bridge, when many human bones were disinterred; but no other article of curiosity. It is presumed, that, at the Reformation, the lands were resumed by the heirs of the original donors, or taken possession of by the neighbouring proprietors.

Modern Buildings.—Of modern buildings there is nothing worth notice but the bridge just mentioned, and the mansion-houses of Arndilly and Auchlunkart. The former is chiefly remarkable for

its noble situation on the bank of the Spey, in a recess of Benagen, which rises steep on three sides crowned with wood, having the river in front spreading out into a broad pool, with the fine plains and rising woodlands of Rothes on the opposite bank, and the lofty Belinnes closing the prospect at five or six miles distance. Auchlunkart House is a most commodious mansion, on the pleasant bank of a brook, in the middle of the plantations already mentioned. A Grecian colonnade ornaments the front, and adds to ornament the important utility of a covered portico. A conservatory in the same style gives its very tasteful decoration to the south front, and communicates with the drawing-room.

There are three meal-mills, each with a drying-kiln; three saw-mills, two of them fitted up with circular saws; ten threshing-mills, half of which are driven by water, and the rest by horses.

III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1801 was	1161	
1811, .	1190	
1821, .	1206	
1831, .	1385	
Yearly average of births for last seven years,		40
marriages,		7
Number of families,		296
of inhabited houses,		298
of houses uninhabited or now building,		4

Persons insane, none; fatuous, 4; blind, 2; deaf and dumb, none.

The whole population is rural. So far as can be ascertained there has been little change upon its numbers, for many years past. Towards the end of last century, it was somewhat diminished by the enlargement of farms, but this has been since more than compensated by the increase of cottages along the new lines of road, and by the settlement of crofters in the wastes. During the present century, the population has been steadily though slowly on the rise.*

Two of the four proprietors are resident; and one gentleman

* In the population table prefixed to seventeenth volume of the former Statistical Report, there is a great mistake, the occurrence of which affords a strong proof of the necessity for great accuracy and attention in statistical inquiries. The population of Boharm is there given as amounting, in 1755, by Dr Webster's inquiries, to 835, and in 1794, by the minister's report, to 1294, and the difference is stated as absolute increase, the fact not being adverted to, that in the interval the annexation from Dundurcos had taken place, bringing with it upwards of 500 additional population. There was in truth a decrease in the Boharm amount of Dr Webster's return, instead of an increase. The same mistake appears in the generally correct and valuable Agricultural Survey of Banffshire, where this annexed Elginshire population figures as swelling an increase in Banffshire.

of landed property in another parish has his residence here. There are no other inhabitants of independent fortune.

The people are very intelligent, thrifty, and good bargain makers. Considering the distance of many from church, they attend public worship with commendable regularity. The lower orders have certainly much improved in morality since the suppression of smuggling—a tempting employment—for which the parish had great facilities.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—In consequence of the want of any thing like a complete plan of the extensive estate of Arndilly, it has been found impossible to give the full table of extents required under this head. From such plans as there are of detached portions of that estate, and from the information furnished by the proprietor and tenants, the extent of the arable ground upon it, deducting the portion in the parish of Rothes, the rate of rent per arable acre, and the extent of improveable ground have been ascertained in a tolerably close approximation to the truth, and are so added in the table below to these particulars, as exhibited on the plans of the other properties in the parish. But of the large number of acres under wood, in green pasture, and in heath upon Arndilly, the information obtained is quite insufficient for an accurate state; and hence the *parochial* extents of these cannot be given.

Imperial acres cultivated on Arndilly estate,	1512
Auchlunkart do.	1401
Knockan do.	126
Earl of Seafield's do.	1700
	4739
Imperial acres that might be profitably taken from the waste into cultivation, in undivided common,	600
	None

Rent of Land.—Average rent per imperial acre, including rights of pasturage more or less extensive belonging to each farm, 18s. 7d.

Wages, &c.—Good ploughmen per half year, in summer, L.6, 10s., in winter, L.6; second do. do., in summer, L.4, 10s., in winter, L.3, 15s.; cattle boys, in summer, L.1, 10s., in winter, L.1, 10s.; women for farm work, in summer, L.2, 10s., in winter, L.1, 10s.; labourers per day, in summer, 1s. 8d., in winter, 1s. 4d.; wrights do., in summer, 2s., in winter, 1s. 6d.; masons, do., in summer, 2s. 6d., in winter, 1s. 6d.

The above wages for the half year are given along with board and lodging, those by the day are given as full payment.

Men engaged by the day for moss work, hay cutting, or har-

vest, with victuals, 1s. 6d.; women, 1s. Men engaged for the harvest season, whether short or protracted, with victuals, L.2, 5s.; women, L.1, 10s. Women, per day, planting or hoeing potatoes, hoeing turnips, &c. &c., without victuals, 8d.; hay cutting, per imperial acre, 1s. 9d.; corn cutting, scything, gathering, binding, and stooking, per acre, 4s. 6d.; corn cutting by the hook, per threave, of two stooks each, twelve sheaves oats, 2½d.; barley and wheat, 3d. Trenching moor ground, of average difficulty, twelve inches deep, per Scotch fall, 6d.; drain casting, three feet deep, one foot wide at bottom, per Scotch ell, 1½d.; turf diking, with ditch for enclosing planting, per Scotch ell, 2½d.; stone diking, materials laid down by employer, double dike, four feet high, with rough coping, per ell, 6d.; single dike, or faced against earth bank, per ell, 5d. Paling, three-barred, sufficient for cattle fences on grass fields, per piece or flake, three yards long, wood and workmanship included, 6d. Mason work, materials laid down by employer, per rood of six yards square, L.1, 10s.; do. mason affording materials, L.4, 5s. Smith work, exclusive of iron, per lb. for fine work, 4½d.; do. plain work, 1½d.; rimming a pair of wheels, 5s.; set of horse shoes, including iron, work, and nails, 3s.—Utensils: box cart, ordinary size, complete, L.7; wooden plough, full ironed, L.3, 10s.; pair of harrows, full-mounted, but without tines, 18s.; yoke and swingle trees, full mounted, 7s. 6d.; wheel-barrow, with iron wheel, L.1, 2s. 6d.; pair of cart wheels, ironed, L.3, 10s.; full set of harness for one-horse cart and plough, L.4; iron plough, complete, L.3, 10s.—Produce: quarter of oats, without fodder, L.1; quarter of barley, do. L.1, 5s.; fodder of each quarter of oats, 6s. 6d.; do. of barley, 5s.; hay, per stone of twenty-two lbs., 7d.; oatmeal, per boll of ten stones imperial, 16s.; potatoes, per boll of eight old corn firloths, supposed about five and a-half ewts. imperial, 8s.; turnips, when sold per Scotch acre, L.5; butter, per lb. imperial, 6d.; cheese, per imperial stone, fourteen lbs., 3s. 6d.; eggs per dozen, 5d.; sweet milk per Scotch pint, 2d.; skimmed milk per do. 1d.; ordinary three year old stot, well wintered and fit for grass, L.6; ordinary three year old quey, do. L.4, 10s.; good cow, four years old, L.6, 10s.; ewe and lambs of English breed, L.1, 10s.; hill ewe and lamb, 12s.; hill wether, four years old, 12s.; weaned pig, six weeks old, 5s.; porkers about eight months old, not exceeding six stones imperial, per imperial stone, 4s.; hens, each 10d.; chickens, each 4d.; ducks, each 10d.

Servants.—Servants are engaged universally for the half year, from 26th May to 22d November, and from 22d November to 26th May, except what additional troops are required in harvest, who are engaged for whatever time the harvest may last. The men servants, whether married or single, as well as the women servants, always live in the families of their employers, those that are married renting houses either in the neighbourhood, or in the nearest village for their wives and families. It would perhaps be a considerable improvement, if there were more married men servants, and these placed in cottages upon the farms. One great evil of the present system is the constant recurrence of trouble and expense to the masters, and the danger of dissipation to the servants, in making new engagements at the seeing markets at the end of every half year.

Labourers.—Much farm-work, cutting and filling drains, clearing ditches, turning dung, &c. is done by contract with labourers. Sometimes hay is cut by contract per acre, and more rarely grain. The labourers have generally abundance of employment.

Harvesting.—Comparatively little of the cutting in harvest is now done by the sickle, the use of which has been for the most part superseded by the scythe. Each mode has its advantages. The shearing is the neatest work, and more conservative of the grain, but the scything is cheaper as to work, speedier as to time, and more bountiful of fodder. It also admits of earlier stacking, a point of great consequence in such a climate, and if the people are tolerably expert in the use of the instrument, and in the operation of gathering the sheaf after it, it makes much neater work than any one would imagine who has not seen it in employment. The difference of expense per Scotch acre, between cutting by the sickle and by the scythe, may be reckoned as between 10s. and 5s. 6d. An evil consequence of the general employment of the scythe is, that it has interfered most materially with the harvest gains of the aged and infirm, who are now almost wholly banished from the fields. It may be here mentioned, that Mr Stewart of Auchlunkart having lately introduced the short-handled scythe for cutting the grass in his plantations, the servants and labourers all around have already universally adopted it, and a long-handled scythe is now nowhere to be seen in this quarter. The workmen say, that, with the short-handled instrument, they can cut about one-sixth more per day, and this with less fatigue to themselves.

Horses.—Horses of suitable size and strength are kept in the proportion of a pair for every thirty-five Scotch acres, and the parish rears nearly as many as suffice for its supply.

Cattle and Sheep.—The black-cattle are rather of a small size, which there have been few attempts to raise, as it is found very suitable to the climate and pasture.

The stots and spare queys are generally sold off, when about three years old, in the summer markets of the neighbourhood, and, at that age, the stots are in great request for winterers in the feeding districts. The soil, for the most part, not being productive of heavy crops of turnips, and the markets for fat cattle being rather distant, what turnips are raised are chiefly given to the milk cows and rising stock, and are seldom applied to fattening for the butcher, except on some of the larger farms.

Sheep, as before stated, are few in number, not above 400 in all; about the half of these are Lintons, kept on the skirts of the hills; another hundred are also Lintons, kept on old grass by the two resident heritors for the supply of their own tables; and the remainder are of the large English breed, kept on the farms chiefly for the sake of their wool.

Swine.—Swine are kept in considerable numbers. The breeding stocks are maintained at the corn-mills, and at a few of the larger farms. Two feeding pigs, at least, are kept at every farm-steading, and one or two at each of the cottages. These are fed for six or eight months, till they attain about the weight of six stones each, when they are sold to the curers in the neighbouring town of Keith for exportation to London. Even at the present low prices, a large sum of money is thus brought into the parish.

Poultry.—Common barn-door fowls and ducks are numerous at every dwelling, but there are few turkeys or geese, except at the barn-yards of the mansion-houses. The eggs of the common fowls are bought up by the country merchants, and exported to the London market, along with the spare butter from the dairies. Eggs alone bring in a sum of about L.500.

System of Husbandry.—The prevailing system of husbandry is a six-course shift. The grass ground is broken up for oats; a second crop is taken, which is called the awald (or one-fold) crop; then the field is fallowed,—a naked fallow, dunged in spring, where the land is wet,—turnips and potatoes, with occasionally some tares, where it is tolerably dry. Barley or oats are sown the fourth year with grass seeds. From half the extent so sown

out, hay is made the fifth year, and the other half is either cut green for house-feeding, or depastured by the horses and cows. The sixth year is always pasture. Taking all circumstances of soil, situation, climate, and extra pasture into account, this is perhaps as good a rotation as could be adopted; though another year in pasture, particularly on the lighter soils, or rather a proportion of these devoted to permanent pasture, might seem an improvement. In some few instances, the five-course shift has been introduced, taking only one crop of oats at the commencement, but this rotation is not a favourite, and, indeed, the soil being generally a stiff moist clay, the second crop of oats is always the more productive. Of late, wheat has been attempted on part of the best ground, in consequence of the very low price of oats, being substituted for the oats after ley, which is top-dressed for it, or for the barley after potatoes or bare fallow; but though it has hitherto paid well, it is, unquestionably, an unsuitable and precarious crop for such a climate. The soil is well adapted for lint, but it is not considered a remunerating crop; a small patch, however, is almost always sown on each farm for domestic purposes. Tares were, a few years ago, introduced for part of the fallow or green crop, to be cut green for the horses, and a small portion of them for this purpose is now sown on the greater number of the farms. The production of turnips is greatly on the increase, in consequence of the use of bone-manure, introduced since 1829, but very sparingly used till 1833, when the palpable success of the few original experimenters led to its more general application. It bids fair in a few years, if the supply can be continued at its present cost, of about 2s. 9d. per bushel, to become the universal manure for turnips, and to banish bare fallow altogether, except in very wet fields. At first, the bones were applied in large quantities, to serve instead of the farm dung for the rotation, and this is still the case in some instances, about thirty bushels being thus given to the Scots acre, strewed in the bottom of the turnip drills; but what is now the more common practice, is to dibble in the bones upon the top of the drills, in holes about eight inches asunder, giving only from eight to ten bushels per acre, which is found quite sufficient to raise the turnip crop, and then, in the following spring, the farm manure saved from the turnips is given to the barley and grass seeds, much to the improvement of the barley and hay crops, and at a very trifling increase of expense. In either way, the stock of manure is greatly enlarged, and the

advantage is very considerable. Within these few years, a farmer from Aberdeenshire has introduced the practice now followed by some others, of growing turnip seeds on a large scale; the turnips are transplanted into the field for green crop; this practice is troublesome and expensive, but is said to pay well. Oats are unquestionably the staple grain. They are raised of excellent quality, while the barley and the small produce of wheat are generally inferior. The value of the oat-straw, too, for fodder, where so much depends upon cattle, is so much more, as to be held to compensate even for the present inferiority of the price of the grain. They are driven in large quantities to the various harbours on the coast, about ten or twelve miles distant from the centre of the parish, for exportation to London and Leith, and a considerable quantity is sent to the Elgin district for meal. The little quantity of wheat is sold at Elgin, and barley finds a ready market at the various distilleries, of which there are four in the neighbourhood of Craigellachie, and two at Keith.

Lime brought from the large calcining establishments in the parishes of Keith and Mortlach, or calcined from the lime rock within the parish, is abundantly applied as manure, and is considered essential to successful husbandry. On the old arable ground, known to have been limed before, a fresh dose, of about thirty provincial bolls of shells, equal to ninety-six bushels imperial, and producing, of powdered lime, 240 bushels, is given to each acre once in every currency of a lease of nineteen years, and as near as possible to the commencement of the lease. On ground newly taken in from the waste, as much as 400 bushels imperial of powdered lime is given, and on old arable, not limed before, the first application is about 320 bushels imperial. On the arable fields, it is commonly applied during the process of fallowing, or along with the grass seeds. On newly improved lands, it is given before they are put under their first crop. The price per provincial boll of shells is about 1s. 6d.

The farm-buildings have of late been much improved both in appearance and accommodation, particularly on the property of Auchlunkart; but, in too many instances, they are still mean and inconvenient. There are few permanent enclosures either by stone-dikes or hedges, except in the neighbourhood of the mansion houses, and more would be very desirable, as leading to longer continuance of the dry fields in pasture; but the want is less felt, that wood is so abundant and cheap for paling, the use of which for temporary enclosures, is very common.

In this parish, the spirit of improvement awakened, about forty years ago, by David M'Dowal Grant, Esq., husband of the late proprietrix of Arndilly, and much encouraged by him during the continuance of his connection with the property, has since accomplished much, particularly since 1808, when the country was opened by turnpike roads. Patrick Steuart, Esq. of Auchlunkart commenced a very spirited course as an improver soon after his succession to the estate in 1800, and has since persevered with most praiseworthy energy and most profitable success. A considerable deal has also been done on the Seafield property, and much is in immediate contemplation. Throughout the parish, the old arable fields have been much dried by ditches and drains, and, having been freed of unsightly baulks and bogs, have been properly laid together, limed, and brought under a regular rotation. The swampy bottoms of the valleys have been drained, and are now almost entirely converted into productive lands, and many acres of moor ground have been reclaimed, partly by the plough, and partly by trenching, which is considered the preferable mode, and is found, on the whole, not more expensive.

In such a report as this, the fact surely deserves a place, that Mr Steuart, succeeding to an arable extent in this parish of 812 Scotch acres, has, besides all his plantations already noticed, added to that extent, either by his own direct operations or by his tenantry, the extent of 300 Scotch acres, and has 120 more, at this present time, in course of improvement; so that, in the course of two or three years hence, the total number of arable Scotch acres on the estate of Auchlunkart in this parish will be advanced from 812 to 1232. Mr Steuart has been equally energetic and successful in the other parishes into which his property extends.

Table of Produce.—

Grain, viz. oats with fodder, 5025 at L.1, 6s. 6d.		L.6658	2	6
barley do. 1021½ at L.1, 10s.		1518	15	0
	Total grain,	L.8176	17	6
Turnips and potatoes,		1600	0	0
Hay and cut grass,		2137	10	0
Pasture arable lands,	L.1377	0	0	
not arable,	470	2	6	
		1847	2	6
Gardens and orchards,		80	0	0
Annual thinnings of woods,		300	0	0
Fisheries,		15	0	0
Game,		100	0	0
	* Total produce,	L.14,256	10	0

* The data on which the above table has been made up, in so far as it relates to the

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There is no market-town or village. Keith, at the distance of six miles east from the centre of the parish, is the nearest market-town, and the village of Rothes is about the same distance in the opposite direction. Fochabers, close to the lower extremity, is about seven miles from the church, and Dufftown of Mortlach, and Charlestown of Aberlour, near the upper extremity, are each about eight miles from the centre. Elgin is thirteen miles distant.

A daily post passes through the parish on the route from Keith to Craigellachie, and there is a sub-office near the centre. One line of turnpike road, admirably formed and kept, passes from Keith to the suspension bridge, opening communication thence to Elgin, Rothes, Garmach, &c. The length of this road within the parish is four and a half miles. Another line of turnpike, called the Boharm road, branches off from the Great North Road half-way between Keith and Fochabers, and passes up the valley till near the upper end, where it divides into two branches, one leading to Mortlach, and the other to Aberlour, Grantown, &c. with an offset to the bridge of Craigellachie. The length of this road, including the branch to Mortlach, is, within this parish, about twelve miles. This road is in a state of great disrepair, and one of the bridges, destroyed by the flood of 1829, has not been replaced, so that for two or three years no tolls have been exigible on the line. This is understood to be owing to some dispute among the trustees about a debt contracted for the original formation of the road. It is much to be wished that this matter were

agricultural produce of the parish, are the results of much and very careful inquiry and observation, and are as follows, viz. that of the 3761 Scotch arable acres contained in the parish, nearly one-sixth, or about 611 acres, may be held as unsuitable for the rotation to which the rest are subjected, as before detailed, being thin poor fields, hill sides, moss-edges, and the like, generally kept in poor pasture, and only occasionally broken up for very poor crops. This portion is taken as pasture at 15s. per Scotch acre. The remaining 3150, estimated as under the six-course rotation, give two-sixths of their number for oats, out of ley and awald crop; taken at three and a half quarters of produce per acre at L.1, 6s. 6d. per quarter; also for oats, about one-half of another one-sixth, the shift after fallow, say 300 acres at four and a half quarters at same price. The other part of the shift after fallow is in barley, say 225 acres at four and a half quarters at L.1, 10s. per quarter. The sixth for fallow and green crop, 525 acres, gives 400 acres for turnips and potatoes at L.4,—the rest bare fallow. The sixth in new grass gives 300 acres in hay at L.5, 5s. per acre, and 225 acres cut green or depastured at L. 2, 10s. each, and the after crop is reckoned at 10s per acre. The last sixth, in second year's grass, is given as pasture at L.1, 5s. per acre.

The unarable pasture, burn sides, hills, glens, &c. is stated at the average rate of 2s. 6d. for each acre of the arable land to which it is annexed. The lesser articles of produce, wheat, flax, tares, &c. have been considered as only displacing the staple articles of equal value. The produce stated is the average of ordinary years; but seasons occasionally occur, as in 1816 and 1817, when the grain is nearly a total failure.

speedily settled, that the road might be again put in proper condition, for not only is the disrepair inconvenient already, especially in winter, but it is always increasing, and must soon terminate in the complete ruin of the present roadway on one of the most important lines in the county.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is situated as nearly as possible in the centre of the parish. It stands on the boundary line between the old parish and the annexation from Dundurcos,—the decret of suppression and annexation having provided for a new church and manse in this situation. It was built in 1793, and is in good repair. It affords accommodation for about 700. There are, strictly speaking, no free sittings, the whole sittings being divided among the farms, and annexed to them; but there are no seat-rents, and all are well accommodated, in consequence of all holding some land, a farm, a croft, or a kail-yard. Though the church is situated as conveniently for the general body of the people as perhaps it could be, yet, in a parish of such length, and where the population is so scattered, one church cannot be convenient for all, while the numbers of those most inconvenienced are so few in their respective localities as to prevent all idea of remedying the evil by additional churches within the parish. One or two of these remote districts might be accommodated by churches or preaching-stations erected in similar detached corners of the adjoining parishes, by combining them with which suitable congregations might be formed.

The manse was built in 1811. It is large, but very far from commodious. Though built in a very damp situation, which must soon impair it, it is still in pretty good condition, having received some trifling repairs in 1818.

The glebe is about 28 Scotch acres in extent, of which 18 were arable at the time of the designation, poor thin land; and the rest have been improved at an enormous expense by the late and present incumbents. It was given at the time when the church was removed, in excambion for the old glebe of eleven acres, which now rents at L.14. The present glebe would perhaps let for L.25 or L.30; but this increase of glebe value is but a poor compensation for the outlay which has produced it.

The stipend is, by surrender of teinds in 1817, L.168,—55 B. 1 P. 2 L. oatmeal, and 28½ bolls barley payable in kind, and 11¼ bolls victual, *i. e.* half meal half barley, payable by the county fiars, without any separate allowance for communion elements.

There is no chapel of ease, Government church, or Dissenting meeting-house of any description. All the parishioners, except about 20, belong to the Established Church, and the Episcopalian part of the exception, amounting to one-half of it, attend worship generally in the parish church. The other half of the exception consists of one family of Roman Catholics, 5 in number, and 5 Seceders, who worship at Fochabers or Keith.

Divine service in the church is generally well attended, always so when the state of the weather and roads allows the more distant parishioners to walk so far. The average number of communicants is 510.

The annual average amount for the past five years of the whole collections in church is L.35, of which one collection, averaging L.2, is given to some of the Assembly's four Schemes, and one, amounting to L.5, is appropriated to a fund for procuring medical attendance to the poor at home, or conveying them to that most useful charity, Gray's Hospital at Elgin. About L.5, 10s. is required to pay the salaries of session-clerk, precentor, and kirk-officer, and incidental expenses, and the whole of the rest is paid over to the poor's box.

Education.—There are three schools, besides two sewing schools for girls, and two or three dame schools for infants. The parish school is situated close to the church in the centre of the parish, and one of the other two in each extremity. One of the sewing schools is in the upper division, the other in the lower.

The parish schoolmaster has the maximum salary, the legal accommodations, and a share of the Dick Bequest. His average amount of fees paid is L.17 per annum. The teacher of the school in the lower end has a salary of L.5 from the Earl of Seafield. The teacher in the upper end has, from Arndilly, the accommodation of a comfortable house and a good garden, but has no salary. The sewing school in the lower end is altogether on the teacher's own account. The one in the upper end is supported by a salary of L.5 from the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, and by an endowment of five bolls of oatmeal, with a free house and garden from the family of Arndilly. The fees in these subsidiary schools are so much more paid in other articles of value than in money, that it is impossible to state their amount. The people in general are fully alive to the advantages of education. There are only a few, chiefly aged, persons that cannot write, and the instances are rare, indeed, of inability to read. The sub-

siary schools remedy, in some degree, in their respective districts, the evil of remoteness from the parish school; but they stand greatly in need of better endowments, while there is one district, containing seventeen families, so situated as to have no benefit at least for its younger children from any of the schools, and it is unable to maintain a school within its own bounds.

Literature.—There is one parochial library, managed by a committee of subscribers, containing a tolerable collection of useful and interesting books, and likely to prosper.

Institutions.—There is a parish saving bank, which was instituted in the year 1821, under the management of the minister as cashier, the schoolmaster as accountant, and two or three respectable parishioners as trustees or directors. At first the deposits, considering the small population and general poverty of the district, were large, till they amounted at length to the sum of L.1200. The diminution of the rate of interest some years ago considerably checked the spirit of depositing, and still operates against accumulation; but the capital still amounts to L.1000, having, for the last three or four years, been neither increased nor diminished, the amount of deposits and accumulating interests on the one hand just balancing drafts and uppayments on the other, each being about L.200 per annum. When an account rises to L.25 it is paid up; and there are instances of the same individual having been twice paid up in this way. The depositors are chiefly farm servants, unmarried aged females, and parents for small provisions to their children. The institution has been and still is most beneficial both to the temporal interests and the moral welfare of the people. The proprietors could not lay out money to better account, for their own eventual benefit, as well as for the good of their tenantry, than by giving a little to foster savings banks in connection with their estates, by enabling their managers to pay a more tempting rate of interest than can be done without such aid.

Poor.—The average number of poor on the regular roll is 21, of whom an average of two being bedrid or infirm, receive the value of a peck of meal, and 1s. 3d., in all about 2s. 6d. per week, and the remaining nineteen receive about 5s. each, at each of four distributions in the year, besides occasional supplies when necessary. Besides this, there is what is called the occasional roll, containing on an average the names of 12 poor people, who receive, as the money may be spared among them, about 10s. each yearly. Fune-

ral expenses for those on the regular roll are allowed at the rate of L.1 each. Females of the poorer class advanced in years, or otherwise disabled from earning their subsistence, form now unquestionably the most destitute portion of the rural population, as the rate of pay for spinning flax by the hand-wheel, on which such persons used formerly to depend, has been reduced by the competition of machinery so low, that its remuneration for the most sedulous industry is insufficient for the barest subsistence, and thus there is little temptation for engaging in the work. For the benefit of such females, the reporter some years ago suggested, and still carries on, a plan which may be here detailed, because not only has it been found most beneficial for its object, but its simplicity of operation is such that no dread of trouble attending it need prevent its adoption in other quarters. At the commencement of each winter, a small charitable work fund is formed, chiefly by the liberal donations of Mrs Stuart, Auchlunkart, and a list of some fifteen or twenty of the class in question, the most deserving objects of a little kindly assistance, is made out. It is intimated to these, that if they procure flax for themselves, which they always do from some of the country merchants, or in the neighbouring towns, and gain the manufacturer's wages for spinning it, they will for so many months of the winter be paid an additional sum of 4d. for each 8d. so gained, on their application to some one of two or three agents of the charity appointed throughout the parish, to whom they just produce a certificate from the merchant who has received the spun lint back from them, of the amount he has paid them in the preceding week or month. This additional payment or premium brings up the pay for a week's work to a week's subsistence, and so supplies the necessary stimulus, so that with very little trouble to any body a charity of L.6 is made to enlarge itself to L.18, and to carry the happiness and blessings of industry along with it.

Poor's Funds.—The annual average amount of collections paid over to the poor's box, is L.22, 10s. ; interest of L.200 lent by the kirk treasurer on heritable security, L. 8; one-half rent of Bede rigs of Dundurcos, 10s. ; average amount of income from other sources, penalties, donations, &c. L.12 ; total, L.43. Besides occasional donations, the heritors, whenever there is an extraordinary demand, are never backward to supply contributions in proportion to their respective valued rents, to prevent encroachment on the stock of the kirk-session. There is a general reluctance still

to apply for parochial aid, but from various causes it is gradually wearing out.

Inns, &c.—There are 4 licensed victualling houses or inns. Perhaps this number is required on such a length of road, but then the whole four are spirit-shops also, and by far the greater part of the business is the sale of spirits drunk on the premises. Hence each of them is unquestionably a nuisance in its neighbourhood, the habitual resort of the profligate, and the seducing tempter of the unwary. The best that can be said of them, if they are all necessary, is that they are necessary evils. Were the regulations of law enforced as to hours, &c. the evils might be somewhat abated; but this cannot be expected in a district so remote from police.

Fuel.—The general fuel is turf and peat, procured easily in the lower part of the parish from an extensive moss, but with great difficulty in the middle and upper parts, from mosses on the hills almost exhausted. Where, however, turf is scarce, wood is abundant and cheap. Coals are used by the resident proprietors, and partially by the more substantial tenants. They are brought from Port-Gordon, on the Banffshire coast, at a medium distance of twelve miles, or from Garmach, at the mouth of the Spey, at a medium distance of fourteen miles. The price of the imperial barrel at the shore is about 1s. 4d. and the cartage of a barrel 6d. but a large proportion is brought up by the returning carts, which have carried down grain for exportation. Where easiest procured, the cart load of peats of the size generally taken on the farmer's carts, is about 1s., exclusive of carriage. In use, this is equal to a barrel of coals, but the carriage is more expensive when there is otherwise full employment for the horses. Where turf is more difficult to be procured, and of worse quality, the inhabitants would in fact pay much less for coals and wood, and be more comfortable with these, but the turf ashes are prized for manure, and the expense, which consists in labour alone, is not sufficiently estimated.

Drawn up in 1834.

ADDENDA.

THE following addenda bring the foregoing report up to the present date.

1. By the census of 1841, the population of the parish was found to have considerably diminished since 1831, being now only 1261, or 124 less. The causes of this are, an enlargement of farms on the Seafeld property, the pressure of a series of late

years and bad crops, and an increased disposition for emigration to the colonies.

2. Notwithstanding the unfavourable character of the seasons of late, the progress of agricultural improvement has been steadily going on. Furrow or frequent draining has been introduced, in a few instances, with most beneficial effects. Bone manure, notwithstanding its greatly increased price, is in almost universal use for turnips, greatly enlarging the production of this useful article. It is now very often applied along with a small quantity of dung. On the Seafield estate, many of the improvements in contemplation at the date of the report have been executed, and more are in progress. The farms have been properly arranged and subdivided, and some of them substantially enclosed. Several useful roads have been made. Drainage has been carried on on a very extensive plan, and with most beneficial effects; and many plantations have been made, which will soon afford both shelter and ornament to the district.

3. The reporter's plan for supplying the wants of aged females, by the medium of their own industry, has lately failed; not from any want of funds, but from the impossibility of procuring the materials of industry, there being no such thing now as flax given out for hand-spinning in this part of the country. This class of our poor population are perhaps the most destitute of all, now that the domestic manufactures, which used to sustain them, are so much superseded; and their case, for some suitable provision, is strongly recommended to the consideration of the charitable.

4. The incommodiousness of the manse has been wholly remedied by a considerable addition, and a small change of internal arrangements, most handsomely granted last year by the heritors as a personal favour to the present incumbent, for which he is happy to have this public opportunity of recording his thanks.

5. The deficient bridge, on the Boharm road, has been replaced by the Earl of Seafield, and, instead of a temporary wooden bridge over the Fiddich, a very handsome structure of stone has been erected at an expense of L.450, supplied by the liberality of the gentlemen in the neighbourhood. It was opened in the end of last year. The road has also received some slight repairs, and is kept passable by the several gentlemen through whose properties it extends, but it is still in a very bad state, demanding a thorough repair, so as to permit tolls again to be raised for its support.

June 16, 1842.