

The amount of the schoolmaster's salary is L.34, 4s. 4½d.; the probable amount of fees, about L.35; and of other emoluments, viz. from Dick's Bequest, Bruce's Legacy, session-clerkship, about L.53.

Poor.—The average number of persons regularly on the poor's roll is about 50, receiving from 5s. to 9s. per quarter; besides these, a good many poor persons receive occasional aid. The collections at church were wont to amount to about L.70, and the heritors generally gave about L.40 per annum. Now, however, a new arrangement is about being made. Besides the above, the population at large are most liberal in alms-giving, relieving very many cases of poverty by local subscriptions.

June 1842.

PARISH OF KEITH.*

PRESBYTERY OF STRATHBOGIE, SYNOD OF MORAY.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Extent, &c.—THE parish is about 6 miles long and as many broad. It lies in that fertile track of country called Strathisla, through which runs the water of Isla. It is bounded on the north, by the parishes of Rathven and Deskford; on the south, by those of Glass and Botriphnie; on the west, by Grange. The prevailing soil is loam and clay: the climate moist and cold.

The general appearance of the parish is not very inviting. Yet, along the banks of the Islay, there are beautiful and rich corn-fields in the highest state of cultivation. The course of the Islay through the parish may be said to be from south to north.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Mansion-Houses.—A modern and respectable mansion-house has been recently erected at Edintore, the seat of the only heritor resident in the parish.

* The proceedings consequent on the presentation to the parish of Marnoch in 1837 led to the deposition, by the General Assembly in 1841, of the Rev. J. Thomson, Minister of this parish: in which Mr Thomson and a minority of the General Assembly do not acquiesce. They have obtained a suspension and interdict from the Court of Session.

Superstitions.—The parish records bear, since the establishment of Presbyterianism, that the session took up a case of witchcraft against a woman, upon an accusation, that, as often as she passed the door of the Earl's mill, the mill-clap stopped. There was, in the north part of the parish, a rig of uncultivated land, called the Gun Rig, set aside to propitiate the evil spirits; and tradition says, that, when the farmer, about fifty years ago, was about to improve it, one of his cattle fell down dead. A stone-coffin containing some ashes was found in a heap of stones, which the present tenant removed, he having succeeded in improving the land, without injury to man or beast.

Eminent Men.—This parish had the honour of giving birth to Mr James Ferguson, the celebrated writer on astronomy and natural philosophy.

III.—POPULATION.

In 1801, the population was	9284
1811,	3352
1821,	3926
1831,	4464
1841,	4458

The villages of New Keith and Old Keith contain 1805 inhabitants; Fife Keith, 579; Newmill, 448. The Banffshire part of the parish contains 1349, and the Morayshire, 276.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

The people are generally employed in agriculture, and the various trades which the cultivation of the land requires.

On the hill of Oldmore, there is a population to the amount of 300. The produce of the land is not sufficient for more than three months maintenance of the people in the year, even when the crop is good; and as it often fails from frost and other causes, they have to depend entirely on the sale of peats, which they prepare during summer, and drive to Keith all the year round, with small carts and ponies—frequently a female being the driver. The same, though on a somewhat less scale, may be said of Bogbain and the hill of Achanacy. The farms in the other parts of the parish vary in size, from crofts of 5 or 6 acres, to farms of 150 to 200 acres.

Agricultural Improvements.—Subsoil ploughing is carried on with doubtful success; bone manure answers well; and furrow-draining is practised both with small stones and tiles. Crosses of the native breed of cattle of the country with Teeswater and short-horned bulls have answered well.

Rent.—Real rent of the parish, L.6500; highest rent per acre L.3, 3s.

The produce of the parish for export consists of cattle, corn, barley and bear, pork, eggs, butter, and cheese, of which a great quantity is sent to the London market. The land is cultivated generally on the six-shift rotation of cropping, two years grass, two corn, one potatoes or turnips, and one corn or barley. There is no wheat cultivated in the parish; yet, there being two flour-mills, its manufacture is carried on to some extent. In New and Old Keith, there are 838 feus, to each of which are annexed from two to six acres of land, so that every feuar, whatever his trade or occupation, produces his own milk, butter, and cheese, and, in many cases, a sufficiency of meal for the use of his family. In Fife Keith, there are 120 feus, and to each feu are annexed from 4 to 6 acres of land. In Newmill, there are 100 feus, with five acres of land to each feu; and here, the people are more devoted to agriculture than in the other two villages, there being in proportion fewer tradesmen.

Manufactures.—There is a tannery, which employs two tanners and one currier; a distillery, which produces about 20,000 gallons of whisky annually; a tobacco manufactory, which requires from 40 to 50 cwt. annually. There are two mills for carding and spinning of wool, and a bleachfield for country use; a mill for home-grown flax; six corn-mills, and two flour-mills, which carry on a great trade, supplying the country for upwards of twenty miles round. A vein of limestone runs through the parish, from north-east to south-west, which is manufactured with advantage at Blackhillock, Douglas Brae, and Maisley, producing annually from 30,000 to 40,000 bolls of lime, which finds a ready market, besides supplying the surrounding districts both in Aberdeenshire and Morayshire, and giving employment to many carters and small crofters, both in driving the coals from Port-Gordon to the quarries, and driving the lime.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Villages.—Old Keith is a very ancient place, and, at no very distant period, was celebrated for an annual market held in September, to which merchants from Glasgow and the other manufacturing towns in the south repaired in great numbers, where they met those from the north, as far as Orkney, and exchanged their various commodities. So great was the concourse of people there, that the historian of Moray says, "There was not accommodation for them, and they occupied the barns and out-houses in the country for many miles round." New Keith is a clean thriving-like village, on a rising ground sloping towards the east, with three

parallel streets running due south and north, intersected by a narrow lane between each alternate feu. The feus are fifteen yards front by sixty yards back, and pay from 10s. to L.1, 5s. feu-duty. There is a town-house and lock-up-house, and a large square or market-place, where there is a weekly market on Friday for the sale of all sorts of produce. There are six annual markets for the sale of cattle, horses, and sheep. At those of June and September a great deal of wool is still disposed of. New Keith may still be considered the market-town of the district. It was begun to be built about the year 1750. There are branches of three banks,—the Aberdeen Bank, the Town and County Bank, and the North of Scotland Bank. In it are all the principal merchants' shops, the residences of all the solicitors and doctors, while the inn, which is a commodious building, is the resort of all the commercial travellers, and the Mail and Defiance coaches stop at it daily. Gas-light has been lately introduced. There is likewise a Savings Bank in New Keith, which was instituted in 1827 by the parish minister. It is conducted by a secretary and thirty directors. There is a subscription library containing upwards of 600 volumes of standard works, and several other libraries connected with several of the congregations of the place. Fife Keith is a clean healthy village, and was begun to be built in 1817 by Lord Fife, on the north side of the Islay. It has a fine building adapted for an inn. The whole village, in a commercial view, has been a complete failure; for, except a few merchants' shops, and some three or four tradesmen, the population may be said to depend on their crofts of land. It has four markets for the sale of cattle annually. Newmill was begun as early as New Keith; but, being at a distance from public roads, it did not thrive,—the people depending entirely on their land. It has one annual well frequented market for the sale of cattle, horses, and sheep, in the month of October.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is a substantial erection, built in the year 1816. It is 100 feet long, and 60 wide, and is seated to contain 1800. It has a square tower 120 feet high, in which are placed the clock and bell. The Roman Catholic chapel is a neat building, with a highly ornamented gable fronting the market place of New Keith. It was erected in 1828, and is capable of containing 340. The General Assembly's church contains sittings for 700. The Independent chapel has seats for 240. The Secession church has seats for 450. The Episcopalian chapel is seated to contain 150, and has a fine organ.

There are about 60 communicants connected with the Seces-

sion ; about 400 belong to the Roman Catholic profession ; Episcopalians and Independents not above 30 each.

Education. — The parish school is a large and commodious house, built for two teachers, and capable of accommodating 260 scholars. It was erected at the expense of the heritors in 1833. There is a school-house in Newmill capable of holding 100. There are likewise three other school-houses in the parish, erected within these few years by public collections and donations from private individuals and the heritors, obtained by the exertions of the minister. One of these schools is at Achanacy, another at Tarrycroys, and another at Oldmore.

The parish schoolmaster, besides the usual salary from the heritors, enjoys the Dick Bequest; and before the Schoolmaster's Act passed, there were mortified for the benefit of a schoolmaster in New Keith the lands and estate of Edendrach, the minister and kirk-session of the parish being appointed trustees; but, about a century ago, a progenitor of the Duff family, alleging that the land had fallen to him from the non-payment of the teinds, which he at that time rented from Forbes of Craigievar, got possession of the land for the yearly payment of 300 merks Scots to the schoolmaster—one of the elders at the time protesting against the transaction. About fifteen years ago, an attempt was made to reclaim the lands to their original purpose; but the title was found to have prescribed. The late Dr Simpson of Worcester, in the year 1840, left L.500, 3 per cent. consols, the interest of which was to increase the income of the schoolmaster. Yet, notwithstanding all these advantages, the school-fees are higher than in any of the surrounding parishes. The schoolmaster of Newmill receives, conjointly from the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, the Earl of Fife, and the interest of L.100 mortified by the late Mr Chalmers, Newmill, an endowment of about L.25 annually, besides the school-fees.

Poor.—There are about 130 on the poor roll, who are under the guardianship of the kirk-session, and receive annually L.250 Sterling, derived from charitable collections, the use of the mortcloth, the sale of burial ground, and the interest of some donations,—the heritors making up the deficiency. It is given in sums, varying according to the condition of the claimants, from 3s. a week to 4s. a quarter.

July 1842.

COUNTY OF BANFF.

THIS county is bounded on the north, by the Moray Frith ; on the south and south-east, by Aberdeenshire ; on the west, by Morayshire. It is situated in the 58th degree of north latitude, and between 2°. 13' and 3°. 40' west longitude. It contains about 647 square miles. It is supposed to contain about 120,000 acres under cultivation. The valued rent is L.79,200 Scots, and the annual value of land, as assessed in 1815, amounted to L.79,396, 3s. 4d., and of houses, L.5514, 2s. Population in 1841, 50,076. Inhabited houses, 11,228. Parliamentary constituency in 1841, 760.

Table I. Showing the number of persons committed for trial or bailed in the county, for different offences, in the year 1840 :

Offences against the person,	18
property, with violence,	6
without violence,	9
Malicious offences against property,	3
Forgery, and offences against the currency,	1
Other offences,	5
	<hr style="width: 10%; margin: 0 auto;"/>
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TABLE II.—Showing Ecclesiastical State, &c. of Parishes in the County of Banff.

Parishes in the County of Banff.

Parishes.	Population in 1891.	Ecclesiastical State.				Schools in 1891.			Per. Schoolmasters' Emoluments.				Annual amount of Contributions to the Poor.			
		Families in 1891.	Individuals in 1891.	Families of Dissenters or Seceders.	Individuals of Dissenters or Seceders.	Amount of Parochial Ministers' stipend.			Salary.	Fees.	Total.	From assessment or voluntary contribution by Heritors.	From Church collections.	From Alms, Legacies, &c.	Total.	
Banff.	3035	3400	524	...	...	18 chalders.	2	See text.	See text.	...	...	L. 116 0 0	L. 133 0 0	...	...	...
Deaford.	980	854	23	...	...	14 chalders, &c.	2	L. 32 0 0	L. 15 0 0	L. 47 0 0	...	...	20 0 0	L. 10 12 0	...	...
Ordquhill.	697	614	23	...	...	L. 160.	2	30 0 0	10 0 0	40 0 0	...	...	27 0 0	2 10 0	...	...
Forger.	771	765	...	...	...	L. 172, &c.	2	34 4 0	30 0 0	64 0 0	...	...	64 6 8	16 2 10	...	...
Garly.	1037	160	...	...	...	14 chalders.	1	32 10 0	15 0 0	47 10 0	...	...	25 0 0	15 0 0	...	...
Mortlach.	2804	2470	130	...	...	15 chalders.	2	34 4 0	...	...	...	...	...	See text.	...	...
Aberlour.	1352	1300	...	...	...	14 chalders.	2	34 4 0	12 0 0	46 16 0	...	...	18 0 0	See text.	...	...
Inveraven.	2417	See text.	...	...	...	15 chalders.	2	28 17 0	11 0 0	39 17 0	...	...	...	See text.	...	...
Alrab.	1407	1385	...	...	...	12 chalders.	2	30 0 0	5 0 0	35 0 0	...	...	26 0 0	See text.	...	...
Fordyce.	3436	3134	230	...	...	16 chalders.	11	34 4 0	30 0 0	64 4 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cairach.	927	...	...	...	...	L. 152, 10s.	4	29 18 0	4 0 0	33 18 0	...	...	10 5 0	11 16 0	...	22 1 0
Rochelemy.	1227	...	...	...	...	15 chalders.	2	30 0 0	20 0 0	50 0 0	...	...	30 1 0	...	...	...
Glen.	888	856	...	...	...	15 chalders.	2	34 4 0	28 3 0	62 7 0	...	...	22 0 0	6 0 0	...	28 0 0
Boorphan.	714	...	...	...	...	13 chalders.	2	30 0 0	7 0 0	37 0 0	...	...	16 17 0	4 0 0	...	20 17 0
Inverkeithny.	686	...	...	...	...	L. 220.	2	34 4 0	30 0 0	64 4 0	...	...	30 0 0	5 0 0	...	35 0 0
Grange.	1661	See text.	...	...	...	14 chalders.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Int. of L. 600	...	...
Boindie.	1501	1430	69	...	...	15 chalders.	4	34 4 0	23 0 0	55 0 0	...	...	36 10 0	L. 32 13 0	...	...
Rathven.	6040	1820	...	...	...	120 bolls, &c.	14	32 0 0	...	...	...	...	44 4 0	See text.	...	74 4 0
Garnie.	4742	...	...	...	...	16 chalders.	...	25 13 0	...	...	...	100 0 0	100 0 0	L. 50 0 0	...	250 0 0
Kirkmichael.	1576	1937	...	...	...	15 chalders.	3	34 4 0	3 0 0	37 4 0	...	10 0 0	17 0 0	Int. of L. 1760	...	95 0 0
Cullen.	2632	...	...	...	...	L. 109, &c.	7	36 0 0	40 0 0	76 0 0	...	...	59 0 0	...	...	76 14 0
Bobarn.	1981	1240	...	...	...	L. 168, &c.	8	34 4 0	...	...	...	...	22 10 0	Int. of 200, &c.	...	43 0 0
Marnoch.	2291	...	...	...	...	...	...	34 4 0	35 0 0	69 4 4	...	40 0 0	70 0 0	L. 250 0 0	...	110 0 0
Keith.	4454	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

N. B.—The parish of St. Fergus, belonging more properly to this county than to this, is not included in the above.

N. B.—The parish of St. Fergus, belonging more properly to this county, is classed with that of Aberdeen. The amount of the parochial schoolmasters' emoluments above-stated does not include their allowance from the Dick Bequest, or their emoluments from the office of Session-Clerk, Precentor, &c.

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