

Statistical Account, were in their infancy, and hesitatingly attempted by some of the more wealthy tenants, are now generally adopted. Turnips and sown grass, which were then far from common, may now be seen on every, even the smallest farm; and with regard to the dress and diet of the people, a considerable change to the better has evidently taken place in both.

April 1835.

PARISH OF SPEYMOUTH.

PRESBYTERY OF ELGIN, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. JOHN GORDON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY, &c.

Extent and Boundaries.—THE extent of the parish from north to south is about 7 miles; and from east to west about 2 miles, on an average. It is bounded on the north by the Moray Frith; on the east by the Spey. The parish is formed of the two old parishes of Essil and Dipple, which were united in 1731.

Topographical Appearances.—At the distance of about half a mile from the sea, the ground rises suddenly to a small hill. Beyond this there is almost one continued plain, of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth, bounded on the side towards the river by a steep bank, from forty to fifty feet in height. The soil is for the most part light.* The climate is mild and temperate, and the situation healthy.

About the year 1800, the extensive moor adjoining Garmouth, called the Common, was divided among the feuars, the Duke of Gordon retaining a portion. Nearly the whole was planted with Scotch firs, which are thriving well, and have much improved the appearance of the country.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Antiquities.—The only relic of the past in this parish worth preserving, was part of the house in which Charles II. is said to have signed the Solemn League and Covenant; but this was razed to the foundation last year. In digging in several parts of the beach at

* *Vide* Old Statistical Account.

Kingston, many human skeletons were found, confirming the statements of our provincial historians, that several skirmishes had been fought at different times in that quarter.

Historical Notices.—The village of Kingston has, with the exception of three or four houses, been built within the last twenty-five years. The first dwellings erected there were mere temporary wooden sheds, built by Dodsworth and Osbourne, for the accommodation of their workmen, and by them named Kingston Port, after Kingston-upon-Hull; and not, as Sir Thomas Dick Lauder states in his excellent history of the Morayshire Floods, in honour of Charles II. who landed here on his return from Holland. These gentlemen purchased the forest of Glenmore from the Duke of Gordon in 1784; and for many years carried on a most extensive trade here in timber and ship-building. I am informed that, subsequent to 1793, they built twenty-four vessels, two of which were upwards of 750 tons register burthen; two of nearly 600 tons; the rest from 50 to 500 tons. Several other shipbuilders have during that time built 126 vessels, measuring from 29 to 200 tons; of these Mr W. Geddie built 43, and he still carries on the business successfully. All these vessels were built of Highland natural grown fir timber, and have been found to last as long as many vessels built of oak; and are insured at Lloyds and by the other Sea Insurance Companies on equal terms with vessels built of oak. The four large vessels above-mentioned were long employed by Government in the transport service; and two of them were afterwards engaged by the East India Company in the India and China trade.

Since the flood in 1829, the harbour of Garmouth has been far from good, nor can it be improved until the action of the sea shall force in, and raise the gravel bank on the east side of the river, so as to form a barrier against and yield a shelter from the sea during stormy weather. To attempt the erection of a pier is out of the question, as the channel shifts almost every *spate*, and the nature of the ground precludes the possibility of obtaining a secure foundation. A large quantity of gravel is brought down the river during every flood, and forms into ridges at the water mouth, often rendering access into the harbour impracticable except for vessels of small burthen. At present the ordinary depth of water on the bar at the lowest neap tides is only 6 feet, and at the highest stream tides 12 feet. Since 1815, the depth of water in the bay,

for about two miles out, has diminished one fathom. This will give an idea of the quantity of gravel carried down by the stream. From beyond the bridge of Spey, the gravel over which the river flows is continually in motion, and rapidly descending to the ocean; in proof of which I may mention, that several large stones, which formed part of the bridge of Spey, were cast ashore at the water mouth, four days after the bridge fell on the 4th August 1829; and the mooring anchor, weighing at least a ton, and securely fastened, as was supposed, in the channel of the river, a quarter of a mile from its mouth, was during the great flood carried out to sea, and never recovered.

III.—POPULATION.

By the last census the population amounted to 1475, of which number 675 are inhabitants of Garmouth, 200 of Kingston, and the remainder in the landward part of the parish.

Average number of births registered for the last three years, (though not Dissenters, many refuse to register,)	19
Average of marriages during the same period,	13
Number of males,	695
females,	780
Number of families in the parish,	347
chiefly employed in agriculture,	94
in trade, manufactures, and handicraft,	127

Character and Habits of the People.—The people of this parish are in general honest, peaceable, and industrious, very charitable to the poor, and in cases of distress disposed to acts of humanity. They are active and hardy. The greatest part apply themselves to husbandry, to the salmon-fishing, or to a seafaring life. They seem to enjoy the comforts of society in the same degree as those of their station throughout the kingdom in general. Scarcely any change has taken place among the small farmers, farm-servants, day-labourers, &c. since 1792, as to their mode of living,—with the exception of a greater consumption of tea, which probably arises from their being deprived of home brewed beer, a beverage of which they are very fond, and the want of which is the cause of much vexation, particularly during harvest and when milk is scarce. The latter is often the case, as cows are kept chiefly for breeding. In dress there has been a great change. Scarcely any of the men use cloth made at home, except when engaged in their daily labours. On Sundays and other particular occasions, they appear in dresses of cloth from England or the south of Scotland. Amongst the men hats and watches are universal; not a solitary bonnet re-

mains, but when at the plough or in the barn, a Kilmarnock *coul* may sometimes be seen. The working classes have been for some years subjected to severe trials from the want of employment, but they bore them patiently, and maintained their honesty and integrity.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—Extent of Farms, Rent of Land, &c.—The farms in this parish are of very different extent, 1 exceeding 200 acres, employing four ploughs; 4 from 100 to 150, employing three ploughs each; 7 from 60 to 100, employing two ploughs each; about 16 from 12 to 30 acres, with one plough each; besides, there are a few cottagers occupying from 1 to 4 acres, some keeping one horse and a cow, some a cow only. There are about 60 acres occupied by the feuars of Fochabers, in the parish of Bellie, who have free access, across the Spey by the bridge at Fochabers, to their acres, which they hold from year to year. The rents over the parish vary from 20s. to 40s.; the average may be about 28s. per acre. There are a considerable number of small heritors or feuars in Garmouth, who have feus of different extent on the lands of Garmouth, all holding of the Duke of Gordon as superior. The rents here cannot be so well ascertained, as the greater part of the lands are occupied by the feuars themselves.

Husbandry.—The five-shift rotation is in a few cases carried on, but the general course is the six-shift, viz. one-sixth in green crop, turnips and potatoes, all in drills, generally about three-fourths of the former, well dunged with farm-yard dung, sometimes bone manure, which is found to answer turnips very well, but it is not yet fully ascertained if this kind of manure will be sufficient for the succeeding crops of the shift. However, it is by far too expensive, considering the low rate of agricultural produce at present,—the quantity found to operate effectually being from 25 to 30 bushels per Scotch acre, at 2s. 9d. per bushel. This shift is next year laid down with wheat or barley, and grass seeds, eight lb. red clover, one or two white, one or two rib-grass, and one and a half bushels perennial rye-grass per acre. It then remains two years in grass, partly cut for hay, partly pastured the first year, pastured the second; it is then in most instances dunged for wheat, and sown in the month of October or November. When the whole cannot be dunged, the remainder is sown with oats in spring. The sixth and last crop of the course is spring corn; the field ribbed in autumn to rot the stubble, then

ploughed in spring, and sown with oats or barley, as the farmer thinks the soil adapted. By this method the farm will be divided thus : one-sixth in green crop ; one-third in grass ; one-half in corn. Lime has been in use here for thirty years, and is still now and then repeated when the land is in process of cleaning with green crop.

Stock.—There are about 120 or 130 work horses. They are not heavy, but generally active. Two make an excellent plough. Breeding them to any extent for sale is not practised, as the lands are generally open fields ; but most farmers endeavour to rear as many as supply themselves.

There are about 650 black-cattle. The breed is a cross between the Highland and Aberdeenshire. They are very handsome stock when in good condition. A very small proportion of what is for yearly sale is fed off for the butcher. These when three or four years old weigh from twenty-eight to thirty-six stone. The greater part is sold when two or three years old to the graziers in Aberdeenshire, and other counties to the south. The dairy is not much practised. The largest farms keep from eight to twelve cows. They bring up their calves, and serve the family. The farmer is more careful to have neat figures for breeding than to have them good for milking. There are few sheep. Three or four flocks of about one hundred each are kept. Most of the farmers close upon the Spey keep from four to eight pasturing among their cattle. The breed is a cross between the Cheviot and the small brown-faced Morayshire.

Navigation.—Notwithstanding the disadvantages connected with the harbour of Garmouth, it is gratifying to know that, compared with what it was in 1792, the trade and shipping of the port has greatly increased. I have no means of ascertaining the number of vessels which entered here during any year from 1792 till 1816. From 1st January 1816 till 31st December 1825, a period of ten years, 1863 vessels besides boats sailed, three-fourths of which at least were loaded with timber and grain. This gives an average of 186 yearly. The following is the number of vessels which arrived and sailed for the seven years from the 5th January 1826 to 5th January 1833, as per Custom-house books.

	1826.	1827.	1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.
General arrivals,	191	155	123	111	98	130	138	
General sailings,	201	164	127	113	96	125	140	

The arrivals and sailings of vessels with cargoes, from 5th January 1826 to 5th January 1833, were

	1826.	1827.	1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832-3
Inwards—imports, coals,	64	61	67	46	43	41	57
Outwards—exports, timber and grain,	97	82	76	85	61	56	86

During the ten years from 1st January 1816 to 31st December 1825, the greatest number of vessels entering the harbour was 257 in 1818, and the least 154 in 1822.

From the pilotage book kept here, the number of vessels which sailed during 1834 appears to have been 204, fifty of which were loaded with grain, chiefly oats and wheat, and carried at least 18,000 quarters to various English ports, and chief towns in the south of Scotland. A large proportion of the remainder were loaded with timber. The rest sailed in ballast. During last year, forty cargoes of Scotch coals, equal to 3000 tons, were delivered here for various lime-burners and distillers. Twenty cargoes of English coals were imported from Sunderland during the same period, containing 18,000 imperial barrels, and sold at from 1s. 9d. to 2s. per barrel. Since the division of the moor of Garmouth nearly forty years ago, till then common to all the feuars, and supplying many of the inhabitants with turf for fuel, coals and wood are universally used for fire. Indeed, in many houses a peat or turf fire was never seen. There are twelve vessels belonging to the port, of from 29 to 84 tons registered burthen, whose total tonnage is 685 tons; and they are manned by 55 seamen. All the masters, with two exceptions, and nearly all the men, are natives of Garmouth and Kingston; and besides these, several masters, seamen and ship-carpenters, originally belonging to this place, go to sea from other ports. With two exceptions, all the masters of the above twelve vessels are part or sole owners of the vessels they command.

Although they never enter the harbour, the Spey Fishing Company's salmon smacks should be included in the Garmouth shipping. From 8 to 12 of these are annually employed in conveying salmon to the London market. From the best information I can obtain, 73 cargoes of salmon were last year shipped in whole or in part in the bay; 52 of these were sent direct to London, the rest were sent to Aberdeen, and there re-shipped for London. Each cargo contains on an average 280 boxes, containing 1 cwt. of fish each, and may be estimated as worth L. 5 each box, taking the average prices of the whole season.

Salmon Fishing.—The Salmon Fishing Company employ twelve crews of seven men each, and seven curers in the fishing department. Last year the fishers were engaged at L. 9 certain, and were to get

more, provided the fishing turned out well. They got L. 13, 3s. each. Their wages this year are to depend on the quantity of fish caught. Two kit boats are employed to carry out the fish to the smacks in the bay, and bring in the empty boxes, &c. These boats have a crew of seven men each, whose wages are not less than L. 8, for the period from 1st February to the end of October; but if the fishing is good, they have the option of being paid 2½d. for each full box of fish shipped from the tug-net, or shifted or exchanged from one smack to another in the bay, and 1½d. for each empty box taken from the smack to the quarters. Salmon sells here from 1st February, when the fishing commences, to 31st May, at 1s. 6d. per pound, and grilse at 1s.; and from 1st June to 14th September, when the fishing ends, salmon sells at 1s., grilse above 5 lb. at 9d., and 6d. for those below that weight. These prices are charged here even when salmon is selling in the London market under 6d. per pound. The rent of this fishing is L. 8200.

Timber Trade.—The timber trade of Garmouth is now far from being what it once was. The forest of Glenmore was exhausted upwards of twenty years ago, and all the natural timber brought here since was from the forest of Abernethy, belonging to the Earl of Seafield, the forest of Rothiemurchus, belonging to Sir John Peter Grant of Rothiemurchus, and Glenfishie forest, belonging to Mackintosh of Mackintosh. There are three agents for the sale of this timber, and three individuals who deal in planted fir timber—an article of comparatively recent introduction into the market in this place. During part of the late war, when foreign timber was excluded from the British market, the quantity of natural fir timber sold here exceeded L. 40,000 Sterling yearly; and even so recently as 1818 it amounted to about L. 30,000. Since that period foreign timber has been more generally used for extensive jobs, particularly in England and the south of Scotland; and planted timber, though far inferior in durability and quality to the natural grown fir, is often preferred for inferior purposes, because of the difference in the price. At one period the price of the best fir timber was as high as 3s. 6d. per cubic foot; the same quality is now sold here at 1s. 3d. and 1s. 4d.; logs and spars from 8 to 40 feet long, and from 7 to 18 inches diameter, are sold from 1s. to 1s. 4d. per solid foot, and small logs and spars from 9d. to 1s. per cubic foot. Sawn timber, viz. scantling plank and deals vary from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per cubic foot; the two last are generally sold by the 100 feet, superficial mea-

sure. The sales for several years past range from L. 8000 to L. 10,000, to which may be added from L. 800 to L. 1000 worth of planted timber. The average number of floats received for the last few years does not exceed 300 of Highland timber; the average value of each float is about L. 30, and the average floating money about L. 2, 15s. The floats received by the agent for Rothiemurchus' trustees are generally smaller than those received by the agents for the Earl of Seafield and the Glenfishie Wood Company, and consequently do not exceed L. 2, 10s. for floating money; but the above average of the whole is very near the mark. Connected with the wood trade, from 60 to 80 persons are employed during the greater part of the year as labourers and sawyers. Wages of labourers 1s. 6d. per day, when loading vessels 2s. per day; sawing is paid by the 100 feet from 1s. 9d. to 2s. 6d. according to the size of the timber sawn. No allowance of spirits is given, except on extraordinary occasions. Last year about 120 floats of planted timber were received here, average value L. 7; average floating money L. 1, 10s.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The great post road enters this parish at the bridge of Spey, and passes through the middle of it to Elgin. The bridge was finished in autumn 1804, and fell in part during the flood of August 1829. A handsome and substantial wooden arch was thrown over the fallen part, and the bridge re-opened on the 5th December 1832. The mail passes daily, and there is a daily runner to Garmouth.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is inconveniently situated for the bulk of the population, standing about the middle of the parish, and consequently fully three miles distant from either extremity. The villages of Garmouth and Kingston, containing a large proportion of the population, are at the one extremity, and some small farms, together with many cottages, at the other. Few parishioners are within a mile of the church; but notwithstanding there are few country parishes in Scotland where the inhabitants are more disposed to attend church, or more attached to our national Establishment. There are not more than seven Dissenters. The church was built in 1732, enlarged and repaired in 1799, and is now in good condition. The stipend, by decret of annexation 1781, is 77 bolls, 1 firloft, 2 pecks bear; 32 bolls, 1½ peck oatmeal, at 8½ stones the boll; and L. 340 Scotch. The glebe is twenty-five acres in extent; but the soil is not good, and the crops on it, as well as on the neighbouring fields, are fearfully destroyed

by rabbits. The yearly value of the glebe per acre may be L. 1, 3s.

Education.—Besides the parochial school, which is situated in Garmouth, there is a school in the higher part of the parish, the master of which receives a salary from the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, as also an allowance from the Duke of Gordon, who is sole heritor. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is L. 29, 18s. 9d., and his school fees may amount to L. 19 per annum. There are also three private schools, and, so far as I know, all the youths are more or less instructed.

The Garmouth Sabbath school was opened in 1822, and in December 1831 another was opened in Kingston. By the quarterly returns rendered in February last, the former contained 108 and the latter 50 scholars. A Sabbath school library was established in 1827, from which the scholars receive books once a fortnight as a reward for good conduct and merit as scholars. The Garmouth subscription library was instituted in 1823, and contains nearly 200 volumes, chiefly approved standard works. The mechanics' library was established in 1825, and contains also about 200 volumes. These three institutions have been the means of supplying much useful and entertaining information, and have certainly created as well as supplied the taste for reading, which of late years has characterized many of the community. It is hoped they will continue to do much good.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of poor at present receiving parochial aid is 43. The means of aiding them arise from the collections on Sunday, which for the last two years amounted to L. 33 per annum; seat rents in the church L. 3, 12s.; half of the interest of L. 140 mortgaged money, (the other half being assigned to a teacher in the higher part of the parish,) and the interest of L. 45 lately bequeathed.

Mills.—There are three corn-mills, to any one of which the tenants may carry their corns. The multure paid is for service only; and for the miller about one-sixtieth part, but the general practice is to pay the miller for drying and grinding, 1s. for nine stone of meal. The feuars of Garmouth are astricted to the mill of Garmouth, belonging to the Duke of Gordon, paying one-thirtieth for multure to the proprietor, and some small proportion to the miller for work. They are likewise bound to assist in keeping the mill lead in repair.

June 1835.