

# PARISH OF ARDROSSER OR ARDESIER.

PRESBYTERY OF NAIRN, SYNOD OF MORAY.

THE REV. JOHN MATHESON, MINISTER.\*

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name and Boundaries.*—THERE are many conjectures and traditions regarding the etymology of Ardersier, or, as it is variously written in the records of the Presbytery of Chanonry, to which it was attached till the year 1773, "Ardersuir, Arthursire;" and in a map of Moray, from drawings by Sir Robert Gordon of Straloch, taken in 1640, it is spelt Ardyrsyir. It is pronounced in Gaelic "*Ardnasaor*," which may signify "the height of the carpenter;" tradition having preserved a vague story, that several carpenters were drowned in the ferry, during the period that the cathedral of Chanonry was being built. Although this derivation is plausible, it may reasonably be supposed that the parish had a name before this accident befell the craftsmen. So far back as the year 1226, in a deed of agreement between the Bishops of Moray and Ross, affecting this parish, and transcribed in the "*Registrum Moraviense*," it is written "Ardrosser." This is probably derived from the Gaelic *Ard*, high, *Ross*, a promontory or peninsula, and *iarr*, west; or the adjunct may be an arbitrary termination. This interpretation is in consonance with the features of the parish, which towards its western and northern limits exhibits a front of verdant hill, at some points 200 feet above the level of the sea. This hill does not extend to the point of land which juts into the sea, and which is occupied by Fort-George, but terminates by a gradual slope within a mile of it, and suggests the idea that the cape had been washed away by some early inundation.

The length of the parish, from north-west to south-east, is about four miles; its breadth upwards of two miles. It is bounded on the north, by the Moray Frith, whose waters also wash its grace-

\* Drawn up by James Tolmie, Esq. Surgeon, Campbelton.

fully winding coast on the west; on the south, by the parish of Pettie, a narrow cuneiform pendicle of which interposes between part of its western face, and the bay of Campbelton; and on the east by the parish of Nairn. Its figure may be compared to that of an irregular delta.

The northern coast, which stretches upwards of three miles along the Moray Frith, is flat and sandy; varied in some localities with dunes of blown sand, grown over with *Ammophila arundinacea*, (bent,) in others with heathy ridges, clumps of furze, and patches of gravel. The face of this flat is further diversified by inconsiderable extents of morass along the ridges; and in some of the lowest spots, which are scarcely above the level of the sea, by expanses of water hardly deserving the name of lochs, though one of them is called Lietchfield loch, the other Lochineghtac. The landscape loses somewhat of its wildness towards the eastern boundary of the parish, where, in the carse, some small farms are cultivated; not, however, with uniform success, as the drifting sands make occasional inroads. On this coast, upwards of a mile east from Fort-George, a sand bank, called Whiteness-head, juts in an oblique direction far into the frith, and, being only seen at low-water, renders the navigation dangerous.

The western coast extends with a curved outline nearly two miles along the margin of a picturesque bay, its level and smoothly pebbled beach forming a commodious bathing-place.

From the top of the hill already noticed, a plain of cultivated land extends backwards towards the confines of Nairn, terminating in pasture or heath, and towards the south in a moss whence peats are obtained.

*Meteorology.*—No regular register of the temperature, nor of the pressure of the atmosphere, is kept in the parish. Nor has any been kept in the neighbourhood for a sufficient number of years to furnish the annual average. At the manse of Pettie, (a distance of four miles,) which is not so exposed as the higher parts of this parish, and not so sheltered as the lower grounds around Campbelton, and which, in consequence, enjoys the average climate of the district, a register of temperature has been kept for the last few years from the commencement of seed-time till the end of harvest; and occasionally, if any great deviation from the average temperature of the season took place, during the winter months. From that register, I find that during the severe snow-storm in Janu-

ary last, when birds were said to have been found frozen to the branches of trees in different parts of Scotland, the lowest temperature was on the night of the 8th, when the thermometer fell to 10°. During that day its highest indication was 22°. The lowest temperature in March was on the 8th, 37°; the highest on the 16th, 62°. Of the observations during the four following months, the result is as follows :

April.		May.		June.		July.	
Highest on 28th,	64.°	Highest on 26th, 29th,	74.°	Highest on 10th,	72.°	Highest on 25th,	72.°
Lowest on 2d, 16th,	36.°	Lowest on 3d,	32.°	Lowest on 16th,	41.°	Lowest on 9th,	46.°
Average max.	51.8	Aver. max.	60.03	Aver. max.	60.37	Aver. max.	57.25
Average min.	38.6	min.	45.5	min.	48.7	min.	50.81
Rain on 13 days & quant.	2.1196	Rain on 7 days & quant.	1.2900	Rain on 13 days & quant.	2.6110	Rain on 21 days & quant.	3.8663
In 1840, was,	0.3286	In 1840,	2.8236	In 1840,	1.6700	In 1840,	2.1290

In the register from which the above is taken, it is remarked that the ash trees before the manse were not so expanded in leaf on the 10th June 1840, as on the 28th May 1841; also that a brood of fully fledged starlings was seen in the church-yard on the 5th June.

Among the prognostics of the weather, there is one which is pretty generally known, and very frequently correct. When the Ross-shire hills are seen very distinctly in the morning, coming rain is foretold; when a haze or dry mistiness renders these hills or any distant object less distinct, a dry day is indicated. Darwin, in his *Zoonomia*, somewhat fancifully explains this atmospheric phenomenon on the principle, that the increase of transparency, by filling the pores with fluid, is seen by soaking white paper in oil, which, from an opaque, becomes a transparent body.

The atmosphere is dry and salubrious. As illustrating in some measure the salubrity of the climate, we may mention the following fact, for which we are indebted to the Rev. Mr Campbell of Croy, to whom the parties were well known. About forty years ago, there were living in the parish fourteen individuals, ten males, and four females, whose respective ages at the time of their death, (and the last of them lived till about six years ago,) were as follows: one 106 years, one 104, one 103; these three were Chelsea pensioners; one 100, two 98, one 96, two 94, one 92, two, 90, and two 88. The rains of spring and autumn readily percolate through the shingly and porous subsoil which characterizes the lower parts of the parish, between which and the higher part there is a well-marked climatic difference. While the upper part

is exposed to storms from the east and north, the village of Campbelton, from the shelter of the line of hill which rises behind it like a screen, enjoys an almost perfect immunity. On the 26th June 1826, the thermometer indicated  $84^{\circ}$  in the village, while on the height, from the fanning effect of a light sea breeze, it did not exceed  $82^{\circ}$ . In cold weather, the difference is more marked. The weather in spring is rather variable; one day, or a succession of days, may simulate the genial warmth of summer, and be abruptly followed by the chilling rigour of winter. We have no endemic disease. As the prevalent distempers of the district, rheumatism, erysipelas, and catarrhal affections may be instanced.

In estimating the influences which act upon organized beings in the production or modification of disease, other agencies than atmospheric or miasmatic must be taken into account. Thus, the vicissitudes of the circulation produced by hard labour and exposure to cold, irregular and innutrient meals, and the use of ardent spirits, operate in producing disease, or begetting a susceptibility to it. Erysipelas is certainly a common affection in the district. All cutaneous diseases, however, (not even excepting the national opprobrium,) are made to personate it by the indiscriminating rustics. Derangement of the functions of the skin, from inattention to ablution, may contribute to the frequency of this exanthem.

*Hydrography.*—The Moray Frith washes the northern coast of the parish, and an extension of it, which, to the south of Fort-George, acquires the name of the Frith of Beaully, forms a bay on the western shore, which, from the bold and picturesque contour of the hills on the opposite coast of Ross-shire, presents a beautiful landscape. From the hill behind Campbelton, there issues in a continuous jet, a strongly chalybeate spring, which has deservedly acquired a high character as a tonic, and is frequented by nervous, dyspeptic, and cachectic invalids.

*Geology.*—There is not an exposed rock in the parish. Two or three small-sized boulders of gneiss occur within the high water-mark. The terrace or line of hill which skirts the western and northern coasts, shows its alluvial origin from the alternate strata of sand and clay observable in exposed sections. No sea shells have been found in this ridge. Along the coast there are manifest impressions of geological changes. On the west, the sea has, at a remote period, made considerable encroachments. Peat is found several hundred yards within high-water mark, under a layer of

sand of about a foot in thickness. From the agency of successive tides and currents, this encroachment is slowly becoming less, as is evidenced by the beach of loose shingle thrown up in the course of ages, which extends along the coast for nearly two miles, and which is in parts upwards of a quarter of a mile in breadth. That the causes which produced this marine deposit are still in operation, is known by the fact that, within the last twenty years, the access to the pier at Fort-George has been completely blocked up by a barrier of this shingly debris.\* The northern coast bears marks of extensive inundation. Upwards of a mile inland from the present flood-mark are distinctly visible two beaches of shingle or water-worn pebbles, parallel to each other in their winding outline, and distant from each other only a few yards. Parts of the reclaimed land have been, time immemorial, under tillage. If the inundation happened within the historical æra, it was probably in the year 1097, when we are told by Boethius, Buchanan, and other historians, that the Goodwin estate was overwhelmed by sand, and the lands of Moray desolated by an inundation of the German Ocean.

In the banks of the rill which divides Ardersier from Fleming-ton, and which has a channel of some depth, logs of black oak, lying horizontally, are seen at depths varying from three to five feet below the surface level. At many points the sides and bottom of the channel present extensive patches of bog-iron ore.

*Zoology.*—Quails have been frequently shot in the parish, and starlings have hatched young broods in the neighbourhood. In the winter months, the coast is frequented by flocks of aquatic fowl. Barnacle, sheldrake, teal, and widgeon are the frequent prey of sportsmen. And some of the rarer species, as the red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*,) have been shot in the bay. Of shell-fish, the cockle (*Cardium edule*,) which abounds in the sea sands, deserves notice. They are gathered in quantities by the fisher girls, and conveyed to the Inverness market; and they afford a savoury variety to the humble repast of the poorer classes, whose children are sent to collect them. Muscles and periwinkles are also common on the coast.

*Botany.*—The flora of the parish does not comprehend any very rare species of plants. The maiden-pink (*Dianthus deltoides*)

\* At one locality, some hundred yards from the shore, and about eighteen inches beneath the surface of the sea sands, a mass of sandstone with a mixture of carbonate of lime, and enclosing innumerable fossil shells, all of existing species, is discoverable. The shells seem to be in different stages of fossilization, the texture of the stone being softer near the surface.

has a locality on Cromal mount, as has likewise the *Myosotis colina*, (a plant rare in this neighbourhood.) That magnificent aquatic, the white water lily, (*Nymphaea alba*,) grows in gorgeous profusion in Lochineghtac. The surface of this miniature lake is literally obscured by the plentiful display of this splendid flower. Of the other plants found in the parish, the following, as not being very generally distributed, may be mentioned :

Agrimonia eupatoria	Erythraea littoralis	Reseda luteola
Astragalus hypoglottis	Fumaria capreolata	Rhinanthus major
Cakile maritimum	Hyacinthus nonscriptus	Senecio viscosus
Centaurea scabiosa	Knautia arvensis	Solidago virgaurea
Chenopodium maritimum	Lithospermum maritimum	Saxifraga granulata
Drosera Anglica	Malva rotundifolia	Vicia sylvatica.
Echium vulgare	Primula vulgaris	

The *Erythraea littoralis* is much extolled by the country people as a tonic ; it is rather a pleasant bitter. The shores abound in marine vegetation. Many species of the order *Algæ*, mixed with *Zostera*, are driven ashore in great quantities by the surge, and are readily gathered and used as manure. Dulse (*Halymenia palmata*) is found on the north coast ; and laver (*Ulva umbilicalis* and *Ulva lactuca*) is likewise found on the black scalp. It is known by the people as *slake kail*, and is considered, when dressed, good in consumption and scrofula. From the fact that iodine is obtained from this class of sea-weeds, this opinion is not unfounded. Irrespective of its sanative virtues, the laver is sought after as a delicacy. Another of the *Algæ*, the *Carragheen moss*, is found on the shore, and is an economical substitute for isinglass. The *Cynosurus cristatus* is very common in pastures and waste places. We have seen a bonnet made of this grass, in appearance and quality much resembling the Leghorn or Tuscan, which was plaited under the direction of a lady at Fort-George. It is called in Ireland, *Traleen grass*.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Of the early history of the parish not much is known. A considerable part of Ardersier belonged to the diocese of Ross. Among the documents in Cawdor Castle is a disposition dated 1574, " of the lands and barony of Ardersier, fishings of salmon, and other fishings whatsoever ; Over Brouster House and Nether Brouster House, with their crofts and pertinents, and the croft commonly called Fisher's croft, by Robert Lesly, brother of David, Bishop of Ross, and commendator of the monastery of Cambuskenneth, with consent of the Dean and Chapter of Ross, in favour of John Campbell of Calder," (now Cawdor.) Earl Caw-

dor still pays L. 67 Scots to the crown, as bishop's rent. "The Knights-Templar had some lands in Ardersier, and a jurisdiction of regality."\* "This order came to Scotland in the reign of David I., who endowed it with many lands, uncommon privileges, and valuable exemptions; and these were all confirmed by successive kings, and allowed by several popes. Sir James Sandilands, who was the last preceptor of this order, obtained, by a grant from Queen Mary in 1563, the remaining estates of his order, as a temporal barony, on paying 10,000 crowns. Sir James died as Lord Torphichen in 1618.† This explains how Lord Torphichen became possessed of lands in this parish. These lands were sold by Lord Torphichen to Mr Thomas Rollock, advocate; and by the latter gentleman disposed to John Campbell, younger of Calder, by deed dated 13th August 1626, as "the temple lands of Ardersier, the temple-lands of Overcruick and Overbank of Ardersier, lying in the diocese of Ross and sheriffdom of Inverness." "In 1623, John Dow Campbell of Calder, had all his lands in the north, by a charter under the Great Seal, erected into a barony, called the Burgh of Campbellton, with power to create bailies, constables, sergeants, and other officers; liberty to have a town-house, and a market cross, a weekly market on Wednesday,—and a fair to begin on July 15th, and to hold eight days, and that all infestments may be taken at the Castle of Calder."

We find in Pitcairn's Criminal Trials of Scotland, that this parish was honoured in 1508 by the transit of King James IV. in one of his pilgrimages to the shrine of St Duthoc at Tain, which was then held in particular sanctity. Among the items of expense on this journey are the following: "October 20, Item, to the freiris of Ardoseir 18s." "Item, to Robert Mertoune, for passing over the water with the goshawk, 10s."

Upwards of two hundred years ago, the Thane of Calder, in proceeding from Ardersier homewards with his servant, fell from his horse at Druimadeobhan, and instantly expired. The agency of apoplexy, or affections of the heart, was then unknown, and the worthy Thane's death was ascribed to witchcraft. A commission was given to search for the perpetrator of the foul deed, and suspicion fell on a withered old woman in the carse, "who looked not like an inhabitant of the earth!" The necessary marks were dis-

\* Shaw's Province of Moray, p. 304.

† Chalmers's Caledonia, Vol. ii. p. 876.

covered, conviction followed, and the poor creature was burned at a stake at a place called the Paddock.

At no very remote period, a belief in fairies and their gambols existed to a degree beyond the credence of the present age. We would not vouch that some lurking dread of these airy spirits, who "mislead night wanderers, and bootless make the breathless housewife 'churn," is not still harboured by some bustling matrons. About 1730, according to tradition, a man of the name of Munro had a sickly atrophied child, which he and his neighbours considered to be a changeling substituted by the fairies at an unguarded moment in the place of his own. There is a conical knoll in the carse, called *Tom Eanraic* or Henry's knoll, which was famed as the scene of the moonlight revels of these elves. It was believed that if the supposed changeling were left overnight on this hillock, the real child would be found in its stead in the morning. The infatuated parent subjected his drooping and attenuated offspring to this ordeal, and in the morning found it a corpse.

*Eminent Men.*—The late Dr John Mackintosh, Lecturer on the Theory and Practice of Physic in Edinburgh, and author of two volumes on the "Pathology and Practice of Physic," and of a monograph on "Puerperal Fever," received the rudiments of his education in this parish. Major Pryse Gordon, author of "Personal Memoirs and Reminiscences," and a sketch of "Holland and Belgium," in two volumes, was born in the manse,—his father, the Rev. Harry Gordon, being then pastor of the parish. This gentleman, who is in his 80th year, lived in habits of intimacy with Professor Porson, Dr Burney, Mr John Kemble, and Monk Lewis. Major Robert Calder Campbell, E. I. C. S., son of the late Rev. P. Campbell, is a native of the parish. Major Campbell is the author of "Lays from the East," and the "Palmer's last Lesson," and is an admired contributor to the "Annuals." With considerable poetical talents, he combines a cultivated taste for music, and has published some sets of quadrilles.

In the annals of a parish which possesses such a fortification as Fort-George, where breathes all "the pomp and circumstance of war," it might be expected that the names of some distinguished officers should appear. Some of the following gentlemen were born in the parish; the others received their early education in the school of Campbelton; the late Admiral Sir Patrick Campbell, K. C. B., and his brother, General Sir Colin Campbell, Governor of Ceylon; the late General Sir Alexander Caldwell, E. I. C. S.;

Colonel Sir Alexander Anderson, C. B. ; Lieutenant-Colonel Duncan Macpherson, and his brother, the late Captain George Macpherson, R. N.

The whole parish belongs to the Earl of Cawdor, with the exception of the precinct of the fort, purchased by Government about 1746.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest entry is in June 1719; they are regularly kept.

*Antiquities.*—On the heath near the junction of the parish of Nairn is an obelisk or “standing stone,” about 6 feet in height, called the Kebbock-stone, erected, according to tradition, over the grave of a chief who fell in a skirmish, the inglorious cause of which originated in a dispute about a cheese. Another tradition is, that it marks a spot where the Danes were repulsed. The late Mr Nimmo of the Inverness Academy, thought the stone had been placed to mark the boundary between the counties of Inverness and Nairn.

At Dalyards there were in the beginning of last century fragments of the ruins of a large building, which tradition reports to have belonged to the Knights-Templar. Whether the building was a religious house or a fortalice is uncertain; probably the latter, as the enterprize of agriculture has not yet succeeded in obliterating traces of the fosse with which it was surrounded. Dalyards is marked in Gordon of Straloch’s map of Moray 1640, though a little out of place. It is now a cultivated field,

“ And, after length of years, no stones betray  
The place, where once the very ruins lay.”

There was a Druid circle at Achnuallan, but the distance from a quarry, and the expense of carrying building materials, prompted its demolition many years ago. A horn filled with silver coins was dug up near this circle forty years ago, but no correct information is preserved of their nation or date.

On the line of hill behind Campbelton, there is a circular mount, elevated about 20 feet above the surface level of the ridge, and commanding from its summit a most extensive view, which embraces parts of seven or eight counties. This mount is called in Gaelic, *Cromal* or *Tom Mhoit*. It is corruptly Anglicised into Cromwell’s Mount. In the “*Memorabilia of Inverness*” it is called Cromal, and is included among the British hill-forts of the county. It is surrounded at the top by a rampart about five feet high, which, from the nature of the locality, is of clay and earth.

In its western aspect, the wall is nearly straight; the area is circular. Its circumference is about 120 yards. The approach to the fort was from the south-east. The earthen mound which led to it, has been long ago carried away; the agricultural eye, which directed its abduction, seeing compost in every thing. The work of demolition did not end here, for with the raised approach was excavated a slight section of the rampart. Whilst this does not materially injure the venerable pile, it has exposed to view a horizontal layer of small loose stones, on a level with the area within. At some points these stones exhibit marks of calcination or decomposition, and fragments of charred wood are found in the superincumbent earth.

There were, some years ago, on the heath of Balnagown, two parallel lines of circular earthen mounds; each tumulus in the rear line, covering the opening between two tumuli in the front line, and the distance such that an enemy could not pass between any two, or break the line with impunity; being within a dart's throw of each other. Many of these fortlets or enclosures have been carried away as compost by the small farmers; and others have been destroyed or mutilated by the line of road, which passes through the encampment, but several of them still remain. It is considered of Danish origin. Danish stone-axes have been found in the neighbourhood.

“At Ardersier, which is situated on the southern shore of the Varar, twenty-four miles west, south-west from Ptoroton (Burgh-head), there were dug up, more than twenty-five years ago, a very curious Roman sword and the head of a spear.” Roy's *Military Antiquities*, Vol. i. p. 88.

*Modern Buildings.*—Fort-George, a model of a fortress, occupies the limit of the peninsula, called Ardersier Point. The following description of it, from “Anderson's Guide to the Highlands,” we adopt, on account of its concise correctness: “It is an irregular polygon, with six bastions, mounting 18 twenty-four, 25 eighteen, 22 twelve, and 4 six pounders, and 4 thirteen-inch mortars. It was founded in 1748, under the direction of General Skinner, who continued director of engineers in Scotland till 1757. The land-front is defended by a ditch, covert way, and glacis, two lunettes and a raveline mounting 8 twelve-pounders. The north and south curtains are casemated, each containing 27 bomb-proof apartments. The grand magazine is bomb-proof, and will hold 2474 barrels of gunpowder. The staff buildings lie towards the



cupations to which their wives are subjected. They carry in creels on their back to great distances immense loads of fish; and they carry their husbands to and from their boats, when, from the state of the tide, they cannot get in or out dry-shod. This latter duty influences the fashion of the costume of the females, which, as regards their lower garments, is of peculiar brevity. The women make the nets and bait the lines, and the fishermen, when not employed on the vasty deep, do little else than chew tobacco. They still keep up the system of inviting the surrounding country to their weddings; and although they are numerously attended, the company is not so select as it was wont to be in the olden time, when the synod of Moray in 1640 deemed it necessary to record a minute forbidding "ministers or their wives to haunt penny bridals." The fishers marry at an early age, and generally before they acquire the means of furnishing a house even with the necessary articles. To compensate in some measure for the deficiency, the custom of *thigging*, as it is called, is adopted by the young wife a few days after marriage. She, accompanied by her bride's-maid, visits her neighbours and friends, and they each present her with some little article of house-plenishing, generally a piece of earthenware, usage permitting the visitor to choose what article she pleases.

From the level nature of the ground between Campbelton and Fort-George, long-bowls is a favourite game in the winter season. Shooting at the popinjay, which is modernized into a target, is also a popular amusement about the Christmas holidays. The best marksman wins the prize, generally some agricultural implement. Each competitor, before firing, pays a certain sum to the exposor of the prize, and the rivalry is pursued till the fixed value is realized.

The habits of the people, as regards personal cleanliness, are certainly improved within the last few years. Even the fishermen, who, for the purpose of smoking their haddocks, and converting them into speldings, had their fire-places in the middle of the room, liberally giving unconstrained freedom to the smoke, are now adopting the luxury of chimneys. Their ancient attachment to the hog-stye and dunghill, which usually blockaded the entrance to their houses, if, indeed, these were not sheltered by the same roof, has received a withering chill; chiefly from the appearance a few years ago of cholera among them, and from the exertions of the Board of Health in effecting a drainage of the stagnant pools, and in removing all nuisances.

INVERNESS.

H h

With regard to dress, the minute of the synod of Moray, dated 1624, "discharging ministers within the bounds of the Inverness presbytery from coming to their meetings of presbytery in bonnets and plaids," would not now apply to the people, far less to the clergymen. It is true, the broad flat bonnet worn by the Moray farmer of last century may still be seen on old men; and the Glengarry bonnet on young men and boys. But the latter, as well as the sprinkling of tartan frocks and jackets among children, and the showy tartan waistcoats worn by young men, are the product of a more modern mania for the Celtic costume. It is pleasing to see the endless variety of clan and fancy tartans displayed in the cloaks and shawls of females.

In estimating the character of the people, it will be necessary to divide them into three classes—first, the fishers, generally speaking, a correct and orderly set of people, seldom outraging the moral duties; rarely associating with persons out of their own vocation, and generally possessing the necessaries of life in abundance. It must, however, be added, that they do not appreciate the advantages of education. Next, the Chelsea pensioners, many of whom are located in the parish, having married natives when stationed with their regiments in the Fort, and having been swayed by female influence in the choice of a local habitation. This class, though there are many honourable exceptions, is rather improvident and intemperate. The third class comprehends the peasantry and mechanics. From the example of military habits, instances of dissipation were not uncommon a short time ago in this class. But a happy change has been produced; the temperance principle has been pretty widely adopted, and the external improvement is already very manifest. Among the seniors of this class, there are some bright examples of primitive simplicity and sterling worth.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—There are about 1434 imperial acres in cultivation; 1815 in pasture and heath, of which last 64 acres have been lately planted with fir and larch by the proprietor, Earl Cawdor, and preparations are in progress for extending the plantation considerably.\* In the Ordnance lands in the neighbourhood of the fort, there are 216 acres of gravel and sand, rendered waste by early inundation.

The average rent of arable land per acre is about 15s. 6d.; the

\* Since the above was written, seventy-six acres have been inclosed, and are to be planted this season. From 300 to 400 acres are to be planted next year.

rent varies from L. 2, 2s. to 10s., according to quality and vicinity to Campbelton. In the immediate neighbourhood of the village, lands pay L. 3 per acre.

Farms are held on leases of nineteen years, except the village lands, which are held at will; the inhabitants occupying them as a convenience.

Concerning the state of husbandry and improvement, the Rev. Mr Campbell of Croy, a native of the parish, to whom we are indebted for several facts connected with its early history, writes as follows:—"Previous to the year 1780, there was scarcely an inclosure in the parish. The mode of farming was wretched in the extreme. The land was scourged by a succession of white crops; then allowed, with its accumulated weeds, to rest for years, when it again underwent the same trying process. The crops were of the poorest description, and many of the cattle, from want of provender, died in the spring. This ignorance and sloth of the farmers was of some benefit to the poorer classes. The fields were productive in nettles, wild spinach, wild mustard, and mugwort, of which weeds the poor people made a wholesome and savoury mess, on which they mostly subsisted during the summer; their only approaching relief being a small patch of bear, generally ripe about the 1st of August. About this time, Mr Macpherson entered upon the largest farm in the parish. Of this gentleman it may be truly said, that, so long as warm benevolence of heart, disinterested friendship, and the most conscientious discharge of the all-social duties are held in esteem, his name and memory will long be dear to the people of the parish. Mr Macpherson, knowing the capabilities of the soil, commenced on the most approved system of husbandry then known in the north, and in a short time, not only the appearance, but the very constitution of the farm was changed. The contrast between the crops under the new and old systems was so apparent, that the small farmers soon followed the example of their benefactor; so that now, and for several years, the poorest tenants labour their ground after the most approved manner. Before that time, potatoes were planted in lazy beds, or dibbled in like cabbages. It ought to be recorded that Mr Mathews, who farmed the Ordnance ground, was the first who planted potatoes with the plough in this part of the kingdom."\*

*Fisheries.*—There are two stake-nets for the capture of salmon

\* As a proof of the agricultural improvement of the parish, it may be mentioned, that, since the year 1800, the Earl of Cawdor's rental has increased 150 per cent.

on the coast. The rents together amount to L. 60. Herring fishing is carried on, every season, by the Campbelton fishermen. Eleven boats, each of about twelve tons register, have this summer sailed for the fishing stations at Helmsdale and Burgh-head. In a successful season, it is a source of considerable profit; each boat taking not unfrequently 200 crans or barrels in five or six weeks. For each cran they are paid from 10s. to 13s. In the white fishing, these fishermen likewise embark; and after supplying the parish with haddock, cod-fish, skate, whiting, flounders, and occasionally turbot, halibut, and sole, they carry the surplus to the Inverness market. For short voyages along the coast in the summer time, the fishermen have sharp-built and fast-sailing yawls. By their industry, many of these men have been enabled to save some money; but the hazardous nature of their calling, renders highly commendable their present intention of establishing, in conjunction with the fishers of Pettie, a branch of the "Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariner's Society."

*Navigation.*—Three vessels, of about 100 tons burthen each, which are employed in the Sunderland trade, belong to a family in the village.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Campbelton is the only village and market-town in the parish. Inverness is distant ten miles, and Nairn seven miles. The population of Campbelton proper, according to the census of the present year, is 730; of the back-street, which, though belonging to the parish of Pettie, is dove-tailed and connected with it in civil and municipal interests, 228,—making in all 958. There is a post-office in the village, and, besides the mail, two stage-coaches pass daily to the south and north. The great post-road from Inverness to Aberdeen passes through the village, as does also the military road from Fort-George to Perth, projected by General Wade, and begun in 1753. About twenty-four feuars in Campbelton possess votes in the election of a Member of Parliament for the county, and the number of qualifications may be increased. The County Constabulary Committee have lately established a policeman; and the county Prison-Board have, at a recent meeting, come to the resolution of erecting a lock-up-house. A small debt court is held every month. There is no harbour. This is a great desideratum, as, independently of the usual traffic in coals and lime, the beach is much frequented as a shipping place for pit-props and other timber from adjacent properties; as well as for grain from the sur-

rounding country. A harbour would be a great boon to the fishermen of the village, a very industrious class of people, who, from their remoteness from a pier, are precluded from participating in the gratuities given by the Fishery Board to others of their vocation resident within a mile of a harbour.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—Although Ardersier be now, and very naturally, comprehended within the bounds of the provincial synod of Moray, yet, for some years even subsequent to the Revolution, it was connected with the synod of Ross. Previous to the Reformation, it had belonged to the diocese of Ross. In what manner it came to be claimed by the Bishop of Ross, we do not know. Perhaps, previous to the irruption of the sea at Fort-George, part of Ardersier might have been geographically more connected with Ross than with Moray: Be this as it may, we find that both the bishops laid claim to the parish, as pertaining to their respective sees: and that it was necessary, in 1226, to terminate the dispute by a formal arrangement, according to which the Bishop of Moray agrees to relinquish his pretensions to Ardersier, and the Bishop of Ross, to renounce claims which he had advanced to Kiltarlity, as part of the diocese of Ross. In the chartulary of Moray, (Charter 75), we have the formal composition of their differences as to these parishes, and the engagement of the Bishop of Ross to pay to the cathedral of Elgin “*unam petram ceræ, pro confraternitate et orationibus et aliis beneficiis ibidem faciendis habenda.*” Among the witnesses to this agreement is the name of Mauritius, who combined in his own person the offices of “*canon of Rosmarkyn, and parson of Ardrosser.*” Ardersier was the seat of the sub-dean of Ross. We find that, after the Reformation, it was successively attached to the presbyteries of Ross, Dingwall, and Chanonry, till the year 1707, when it was connected with the Presbytery of Forres, or the Presbytery of Inverness, which about this period were divided into two presbyteries while they had been previously united. In 1711, the records of Chanonry state that Ardersier is now of this date reunited to Chanonry. In 1773, Ardersier was, by an act of Assembly, disjoined from Chanonry, to make part of the newly erected Presbytery of Nairn, within the synod of Moray, to which it has since continued to be connected.

The earliest notice of the incumbents of this parish which we have been able to obtain, is the following, which occurs under the head “*Ministers in Ross*”—in the Register of ministers, exhorters,

and readers, and of their stipends 1563-76," printed for the Maitland Club in 1830.

"Ardorseir, Awath, Suddie, Kylmuir Webster, Ardorsier—John Smyth, reidar, xxti November 1569. Dischargit sen November 1571, again the same time as the commissioneris writing beris. Andro Mill, minister, jc. merkis November 1569, xxti mair sen November 1571, and for thir twa kirkis xx merkis sen Lambmes 1572. The vicarage of Awath, extending to viijti vijs jd in part of payment of foresaid stipend."

Mr A. S. Allan, Kincardine, to whom we are indebted for the preceding notice, mentions that in the Advocates' Library, there is an MS. roll of the names of the ministers in the Kirk in Scotland, who refused to submit to Prelacy, and continued stedfast in owning Presbyterian Government after the re-establishment of Episcopacy in 1661-1662, in which the name of Mr John M'ulloch at Ardersire occurs.

In 1696, Mr John Dallas was Dean of Ross, and parson of Arthursire, as appears from a mortification by the Bishop, Dean, and Chapter of Ross, given in General Hutton's MS. collection in the Advocates' Library.

From another MS. in the same library, entitled "Ane account of the names of the ministers and parishes in the several synods and presbyteries of Scotland, at and since the late Revolution, 1689, &c." written in 1711 or 1712, we have this extract:

"Presbytery of Chanonry, Arthursire, Mr John Dallas, Dean of Ross, outed and deprived by the return of Mr John M'ulloch, late Presbyterian minister, 1697, and upon Mr M'ulloch's leaving the place, Mr Dallas intruded again, and remained till he died. Mr Lachlan M'Bean, also Episcopal incumbent, intruded then—afterwards received by the commission, and now (1711 or 1712) deposed for immorality."

Mr M'Bean had been previously settled in 1688, as Episcopal minister of Calder, but demitted that charge in 1698, and went to Ardersier as above. He was the last Episcopal incumbent of the parish, and his continuance as such was connived at both in Calder and Ardersier.

Mr Hugh Campbell, ordained in 1707, translated to Kiltearn in 1708. In the records of the Presbytery of Chanonry is a minute bearing that the Presbytery, after some trouble with the Laird of Calder, the sole heritor, of this date (September 1713,) ordained Mr Daniel Beaton minister. In 1717, Mr Beaton complained that

the stipend being only two chalders of victual, and some small vicarage tithes, worth 26 pounds Scots, at most, and two pounds Scots, and no grass, he could not live on this. The same year he was translated to Rosskeen.

Alexander Falconer, ordained in 1718. In the Chanonry records are notices of sundry collections made during Mr Falconer's incumbency; as for the distressed Protestants of Lithuania; for the French Protestants; for the Scots congregation in New York; for a bridge over the river Dee, by order of the General Assembly; for the piers at Banff and Aberbrothick. In 1728, Gray of Skiboll, and Gordon of Garty, were guilty of a violent outrage, and were made to submit to public discipline in the church of Ardersier, and to pay a fine of L.30. This year Mr Falconer was translated to Ferrintosh.

Duncan Macintosh ordained 1729, died in 1736.

James Calder ordained 1737. In 1741, Mr Calder refused an earnest call to Inverness. In 1747, he had a call from Kilmuir-Wester, and another from Croy; he accepted the latter. On one of these occasions, he declines the call on the ground of the inability of the minister of *Sgir an leth dusan*, (the parish of the half-dozen), to discharge the duties of a large parish.

The Laird of Calder presented Mr William Barron, minister of Ardclach, to Ardersier, but the Presbytery of Forres refused to translate him. In 1749, he presented Mr Daniel Brodie. In 1751, the glebe of Ardersier seems to have been removed on account of the grounds required for the Fort. The following year Mr Brodie is translated to Calder, on which occasion the laird wishes to have Ardersier united to Calder; but the Presbytery refuse their consent to the proposed union of the charges. It was probably from the delay occasioned by the attempt to unite these parishes, that no minister was settled in Ardersier till 1757, when Mr Harry Gordon was ordained to the charge. The stipend at this period hardly amounted to L.100 a-year, as we are told by Major Pryse Gordon, son of the incumbent, in his *Personal Memoirs and Reminiscences*; but Mr Gordon was also chaplain to the neighbouring garrison, for which he received a further remuneration of 15s. per week. Mr Gordon was succeeded in 1764 by Mr Walter Morison, the "Aristophanes of the North," or "the Witty Walter." Anecdotes of his wit, humour, and facetiousness, are still current in the district. From the records of the Presbytery of Nairn, of date May 13th 1777, we give the following extract: "There was laid before the Presbytery a petition to

the Committee for managing the Royal Bounty, signed the Lt.-Governor, and principal inhabitants of Fort-George, craving that the Committee would grant a proper salary to Mr Walter Morison, minister of Ardersier, for encouraging him to preach in the Fort every Sabbath, at an hour not interfering with his parish kirk, which petition the Presbytery did highly approve, and did, and do hereby recommend it to the serious consideration of the Committee." We quote this minute, to show the activity evinced in former times, in regard to the provision for a minister or chaplain in the Fort. At the union of Scotland with England, it was stipulated that chaplains should be maintained in the three castles of Edinburgh, Stirling, and Dumbarton. It being considered unnecessary to continue the chaplaincy at Dumbarton, this situation was some years ago abolished. But in order to fulfil the act of Union in spirit, if not in letter, the chaplaincy of Fort-George was substituted in its room. And yet this chaplaincy has been dealt with, as if, in maintaining it, a boon to which they had no claim, was conferred on the garrison. We observe the Presbytery of Edinburgh taking steps, in order to give the chaplain of that castle a seat in the Presbytery. But the Presbytery of Nairn seems to overlook the fact that the chaplain of Fort-George has an equal title to a seat in the Presbytery of Nairn. The situation of chaplain is a very important one, and should have an adequate provision, instead of the present pittance allowed by Government. Mr Pryse Campbell succeeded Mr Morison, as appears by the following extract from the Presbytery of Nairn records of date 6th March 1781: "The moderator asked the people if they had any objection to the presentee; they replied they had none, as he agreed to preach in Erse."

In December 1839, Mr John Matheson was ordained assistant and successor to Mr Campbell. In February 1840, Mr Campbell died at the advanced age of 86. He was distinguished for cheerfulness of disposition, liveliness of imagination, and disinterested benevolence.

The parish church is situated in the eastern and interior part of the parish, and is convenient for the bulk of the population, three-fourths of which reside in Campbelton, about a mile distant. It was finished in 1802, and is in a good state of repair. It affords accommodation for upwards of 500. No seat rents are now payable. The manse, which is commodious and modern, was built in 1828. The glebe extends to 17 acres arable, and about five of pasture. It is worth about L. 25. The amount of stipend paid by

Earl Cawdor, is L. 117, 15s. 7d., the remainder, raising the amount to L. 150, is paid by the Exchequer. At present there is no catechist. There is no Dissenting or Seceding chapel in the parish. Divine service at the Established Church is generally well attended. The number of male communicants is about 30. A Bible society was instituted at Campbelton fifteen years ago; besides distributing copies of the Scriptures in both languages, at reduced prices, and gratuitously, it grants donations of about L. 10 annually to other societies. The average annual amount of church collections is about L. 20; for missionary and other purposes, L. 16.

*Education.*—Besides the parochial school, there are three other schools in the village of Campbelton; one a private unendowed school; a boarding-school for females; and an infant school lately built under the auspices of Lady Anderson. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is L. 36, 7s. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

The late Rev. James Denoon of Rothsay, and Mr James Campbell of Baltimore, were among the early teachers in the parish school. The late Mr John Smith, for a period of forty-two years, efficiently discharged the duties of parochial schoolmaster. His school, so long as his physical powers were adequate to the arduous duties of teaching, was crowded by scholars from the surrounding district. Of his extensive classical knowledge, and happy manner of communicating the same, many of his pupils, who have distinguished themselves in the different learned professions, bear living testimony. Mr Smith was a teacher in Abernethy and Kirkmichael, for sixteen years before he came to this parish; and the Celtic Society, two years before his death, presented him with a gold medal, in acknowledgement of his long and meritorious public services.

There is a Sabbath school in the village, which is well attended.

*Library.*—A Subscription Library, on a small scale, was formed in Campbelton about two years ago, which, it is hoped, may tend to increase the intelligence, and promote the moral improvement of the people.

*Charitable and other Institutions.*—There are two Friendly Societies, which have existed for nearly forty years. Members procure coals and meal at an easier rate,—the societies purchasing these articles with ready money at wholesale prices, and distributing them to the members at prime cost; and the funeral expenses of members or their wives are defrayed by the society. The real advantage of this latter arrangement is questionable, as it encourages drinking at lyke-wakes and funerals, and certainly does not

promote a desire of independence. It would be more advantageous if they deposited their earnings in a savings' bank; but as yet there is none in the parish,—the nearest, established about two years ago, being in Inverness.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is about 60. From the inadequacy of the church collections to meet the real wants of the poor, private subscriptions were set on foot in the parish for the last three or four years. L. 20 were raised in this way about two years ago, and Earl Cawdor liberally contributed L. 20 more. But, notwithstanding that the annual sum allowed to each pauper was materially increased by these voluntary contributions, they have been found insufficient to prevent the weekly applications of beggars.

*Fairs.*—A great annual fair, the “Lammas Market,” is held at Campbelton on the 12th of August,—being the only fair in the parish, and, its object and advantages being of a varied character, masses of people congregate. Numerous reapers, chiefly females, come from Ross-shire and the surrounding country, and they are readily hired for the harvest, by farmers from Moray and Nairnshire, as well as from distant parts of this county. There is usually a good show of lambs from Strathnairn, Stratherrick, and Strathglass; some sheep and milk cows, and a few horses. Wool and homespun plaidings, cheese, and fruits are among the commodities of the country offered for sale.

*Inns, &c.*—Of inns, ale-houses, and spirit-shops, there are no fewer than ten in the parish; all in the village of Campbelton. Whilst three or four inns for the accommodation of travellers would amply supply all reasonable demands for refreshment, it is too notorious, that, where there are so many competitors, the incitements and facilities offered, and the idle and dissolute habits formed, exert the most baneful influence on the morals of the people.

*Fuel.*—An abundant supply of coals from Sunderland and Newcastle is brought to the beach at Campbelton, and is purchased for 15s. per ton. The carriage from the shore is 10d. per ton additional. There are two or three yards where coals are stored, and sold in the winter at a little increase of price. Peats are brought from the parish of Cawdor, and other places, in small carts, and sold at about 1s. 6d. a load. Fire-wood is procured from the saw-mill at Kilravock and from Cawdor, at a reasonable rate.

*September 1841.*