

UNITED PARISHES OF MOY AND DALARROSSIE.

PRESBYTERY OF INVERNESS, SYNOD OF MORAY.

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L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

THERE is perhaps not a parish in Scotland which has undergone less change than this, since the time of the former Account. The face of the country, the state of agriculture, and the manners of the people, are still the same; the latter perhaps a little modified by the influence of education.

Names.—As may be seen by the title, this parish is divided into two, one called Moy, and the other Dalarrossie; they were united at a time of which we have no record either written or traditional. The name of the former is derived from the word *Magh*, a plain, corresponding with the nature of the ground which lies within the distance of two miles round the church; while the name of the latter is generally supposed to be from the Gaelic *Dalferghais*, signifying Fergus's Dale,—this being, as tradition says, one of the hunting grounds of Fergus the First of Scotland. This is, however, usurping too high a dignity for the place, which at least, in its present state, offers few attractions for a kingly residence.

Extent, Boundaries.—The united parishes extend, in length, to about 30 miles in a south-westerly direction, and in breadth to about 5 miles.

Topographical Appearances.—The greater part of the parish is composed of cold bleak hills; while the inhabited portion is merely a narrow stripe lying along each side of the river Findhorn. It is, in fact, merely a mountain glen,—through which this river flows, having rapid streams joining it, which pour down their torrents through every hollow in the mountains. The glen is at an average about three quarters of a mile in breadth, and at every turn of the river is studded with farm houses, to which a few arable acres are attached. Towards the lower end of the glen, the river is joined by another smaller stream called the Funtack, which issues out of

INVERNESS.

G

Loch Moy; on the banks of which, the church of Moy is situated. The larger glen or strath, together with the smaller one of the Funtack, form the whole parish. It is commonly called Strathdearn, from *uisge Eire*, the Gaelic name of the river Findhorn. The whole of the strath was formerly under wood, the remains of which are still extant in the shape of bog-fir. The mountain ranges are not remarkable either for their height or their formation; the highest is perhaps not more than 2500 feet above the level of the sea. There is but one range of any importance,—called the *Monadh-lia* hills, which extend from Strathdearn, in both directions, towards Badenoch and Stratherrick. It is one of the widest ranges in Scotland, and is stocked with deer and abundance of game. This range is intersected with numerous valleys or glens; through the largest of which flows the Findhorn, before it enters the inhabited part of the district. This stream rises out of a very extraordinary stone, called the *Clach Sgoilte*, or cloven stone, from the stream issuing through a rent in the stone. This stone is at the very head of the valley, which, below this, is joined by various other minor glens, each contributing its share to swell the waters of the Findhorn. These glens are called shealings; and the Highlanders were in the habit of driving their cattle to feed in them during the warm season,—where they found abundance of the richest natural grass. After entering the inhabited country, there are few valleys in the mountains,—with the exception, perhaps, of a few pretty deep hollows formed by burns, and which are generally cultivated for about half a mile.

In the mountains, there are no caverns or natural excavations, if we except one spot called *Ciste Chraig an Eoin* (the chest of Craig an Eoin,) which is a circular hollow surrounded with high rocks, and accessible only through one narrow entrance. This hollow is situated about a mile from the church of Moy; and from being quite close to the pass called *Starsach na Gael*, “the gate of the Highlands,” it was used as a place of concealment for their wives and children by the Highlanders during their predatory excursions into the low country. Here it was that Donald Fraser Smith, at Moy, defeated Lord Loudon, who commanded the King’s troops at Inverness during the Rebellion of 1745 and 1746.* Quite

* Loudon had obtained information, that Prince Charles Stuart was at Moy Hall; upon which he immediately set off from Inverness with a considerable body of troops, in order to take him prisoner. Lady Mackintosh being apprised of this movement, ordered Fraser to collect as many men as he could, and to endeavour to stop him. Fraser obeyed her orders, and on coming to Craig an Eoin stationed his men in such

close to this place, is also a green spot called *Uaigh an duine-bheo*, "the living man's grave," with which the following tradition is connected: A dispute having arisen concerning their marches, between the Laird of Mackintosh and Dunmaglass, the latter offered to find a man who would declare upon oath that the spot indicated by him was the exact march, with the condition, that if found to swear falsely, he was to be buried alive. The man was brought forward to the spot, swore by the head under his bonnet and the earth under his feet, that he stood on Dunmaglass's land. On being examined, however, it was found, that he had filled his shoes partly with soil from the acknowledged property of Dunmaglass, and that he had a cock's head in his bonnet, probably that he might save his own, and that he might not be considered perjured for swearing by the head of a cock. He was, however, found guilty, and paid the penalty of his temerity by being buried alive.

Meteorology.—From the elevation of this district above the level of the sea, (about 800 feet at an average,) and the number of high hills which surround it, the temperature is very cold. In summer, the average height of the thermometer is about 68° Fahrenheit in the shade; but often it is much higher. In winter, it is remarkable as being perhaps the coldest district in Scotland. There are often great falls of snow, when at Inverness, which is only twelve miles distant, the plough may be seen at work. Indeed, for some years before the winter of 1834, the frost has been so severe, that Loch Moy has been frozen over for two months; and in March 1833 the ice was so firm, that a gentleman drove a tandem round the island which is in the middle of it. Funerals also often cross the Findhorn on the ice. The Aurora Borealis is very common, and sometimes vies in brilliancy with the description given by Captain Parry of its appearance on the coast of North America. In autumn 1833, it was visible every clear night for two months; and sometimes, the prismatic colours are as distinct as if formed by a prism.

This strath is very subject to high winds, which come down sometimes in fearful eddies through the glen, unroofing houses, and tearing up trees. The prevailing winds are the westerly and the south-easterly, the former blowing during part of the summer, the whole of autumn, and part of the winter months; the latter, generally during the remaining months, especially those of March,

a manner, that Loudon thought there was a great body of men opposed to him; on which he immediately fell back upon Inverness.

April, and May. The inhabitants here, as in every other part of the Highlands, are particularly accustomed to foretel the weather from natural phenomena.—This parish is perhaps one of the most healthy in Scotland, if we may judge from the number of people who arrive at a very advanced age. There are many now in the parish who are eighty, eighty-five, and ninety years old, and still retain their faculties entire; and some years ago a woman died at the age of a hundred. Scrofulous affections are becoming common; and consumptions, fevers, and nervous disorders, are by no means unknown.

Hydrography.—This parish is wholly inland, and is, at the nearest point, ten miles distant from the sea. There is but one lake of any importance,—called Loch Moy; it is about a mile and a half long, and about half a mile broad. Its depth in some places has been found to be eighteen fathoms; this is, however, far from being the average. The lake is situated close to the House of Moy Hall, which stands on the north side, and to the manse and church of Moy, situated on the south. It is surrounded by wood, and the hanging birch copse has in summer a beautiful appearance. There are two islands in the lake, in one of which stands the ruins of the old residence of the family of Mackintosh. A street has also been traced in it, so that it is probable that part of his clan lived in the island with their chief. There stands also on the island a handsome monument, built in 1824, by Lady Mackintosh, in memory of her husband, Sir Æneas Mackintosh, Bart. It is an elegant building, in the shape of a tapering square pillar, and cost about L. 1000. The other island is merely a heap of stones, probably artificial, and was used by the lairds of Mackintosh as a prison. In the memory of men now living, there was a gallows standing upon it, which the lairds used for execution. Some years ago, there was a cannon ball of about ten pounds weight, found buried in the large island; and on the south side of the lake there was a sort of causeway discovered, in the middle of which there was a large paved circle, with an immense stone perforated like a mill-stone in the centre. This was supposed to be a way made for carrying cannon, and perhaps the ball may go so far to prove this; but the true nature of it is difficult to ascertain. Towards the north-west end of the lake, there are a number of chalybeate springs; one of them seems to be impregnated with sulphuretted hydrogen, but the exact proportions have not been ascertained. These have been tried as to their medical properties and with considerable success. The cha-

lybeate springs (one in particular) throw up an immense quantity of slimy red matter, which very soon chokes up the fountain, if not cleared away. From the quantity thrown up, the mineral body which impregnates the water must exist in great abundance.

There is but one river of importance which flows through the parish; that, as mentioned already, is the Findhorn. It rises in the *Monad-lia* hills, and, after a very rapid course of sixty miles, falls into the Moray Frith at Findhorn, near Forres. Its Gaelic name is *Eirè*, or, as pronounced, *Eur*. It is remarkable for the rapidity with which it rises and falls. It has been known to rise within such a short space of time, that persons crossing it, where it was quite low, have been overtaken in a moment, and carried away by the irresistible torrent. Its course is so rapid that it never meanders, and often carries away great portions of the soil, in forming a straight course for itself. The stream is, however, easily forded in summer. It is crossed by two bridges within the parish; and when practicable, the people cross it in other parts upon stilts. One of the bridges is entirely built of wood; and a temporary substitute for the stone one was carried off by the great flood in 1829. The other is a fine new building with stone pillars and a wooden frame-work, built by Messrs Gibb of Aberdeen, at the cost of L. 2600 Sterling.

It is unnecessary here to give an account of the losses occasioned by the flood in 1829, as there is such an accurate one afforded by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, and likewise because the loss in this district, though great, was not so great as in many others, if we except that of bridges, all of which, we believe, with the exception of two, were carried off by the force of the streams. These are now replaced, and, except in one place, where the river changed its course entirely, and destroyed one of the richest flats of land in the parish, the country is in the same state as it was in, before that awful visitation.

Geology.—There is little interesting in the geological formation of this parish. The primitive rocks are granite and gneiss, which are rarely if ever covered with secondary strata. The action of great bodies of water is everywhere evident from the nature of the surfaces of the hills. In the upper part, where the fall is greatest, the hills rise almost perpendicularly from the river; lower down, the nature of the soil admitted of a greater excavation,—whence the strath widens, and at the lower extremity there seems to have been the bed of a lake, which was drained by the water cutting through

the barrier of hills which restrained it. Whether this was a diluvian or a post-diluvian action, it is impossible to say; but the quantity and the power of the water must have been prodigious. This circumstance is noticed with great clearness in Sir Thomas Dick Lauder's Account. His estimate of the height of the lake of Moy above the river, however, is erroneous; instead of being eighteen, it is about thirty feet; and the ascent from that till the river could fall into the Nairn, is at least thirty more,—so that the lake must have extended all the way up to this extreme height, which is at least eight miles, or the river must have excavated its channel to the present level below that height;—the latter is the more likely supposition, and if it could be ascertained what time the river takes to excavate a certain depth, the time at which the change of course took place might be discovered.

Zoology.—The animals in this district are the same as those common to the other parishes around. They are red-deer, roe, hares, foxes, polecats, wild cats, weasels, &c. There have been two of a species not common in the Highlands shot lately in the parish. It is, we believe, called the martin cat, brown over the back, and white along the belly and neck, and about two feet and a half in length from the point of the nose to the tip of the tail, and nine inches in height. It generally lodges in old birds' nests. Except these two, no others of the kind have been here seen. There are no other animals any way remarkable now existing; but there are numerous indications of the wolf, chiefly in the traps formed for taking them.*

The fish in the waters of this parish are chiefly salmon, river trout, char, and eel. The former come up the Findhorn,—though of late years the strictness maintained in the cruives at Forres has rendered them very scarce. This has led people to kill them with torches in close-time,—by which means they destroy more fish than they could kill in twenty years by the rod. The Findhorn is an excellent trouting stream; there is not perhaps a better in the north. The fish, though not particularly large, are excellent, and they take a fly with great readiness. Loch Moy is more noted for its char than for its trout. The former are caught in great abundance

* The method of taking this animal practised in the Highlands was as follows: a large deep hole was dug in some place frequented by the wolf; half way across the mouth of the pit a broad plank was projected, about half of which lay upon the ground, and had upon the end farthest from the pit a weight sufficient to balance a wolf, until pretty far advanced above the pit; on the other end was placed a bait, and the remainder of the pit was covered over with brush-wood, so as to deceive the animal. The wolf advanced to the bait along the plank which, when he overbalanced the weight on the other end, immediately fell in, and he was precipitated into the pit. Numerous remains of these pits are still in existence.

with a net, as they do not take the fly; and if properly prepared they would, we doubt not, equal the potted char of the Cumberland lakes. The trout go up the burns to spawn in the beginning of November,—when immense numbers of them are killed with spears,—a practice which ought to be stopped by the legislature, as it is most destructive to the fish, not only here but all over the Highlands. The char spawn by the sides of the lake in October; and this is the time in which they are considered most delicate. The parish is well stocked with grouse, ptarmigan, &c.; and their usual accompaniments, English sportsmen, are not wanting. In fact, the one seems now to be as closely connected with the other, as cause and effect, and the only thing which will ever put a stop to it, is the annihilation of the grouse—an event which does not seem far distant.

Botany.—The plants in the parish are those common in every Highland district; and, as far as is yet known, there is but one very rare plant to be found. This is the *Orobus niger*, which was discovered in the year 1820 by Dr Alexander M'Lauchlan; and a specimen was sent by him to Dr Hooker, Glasgow. The locality of the plant is in Craig an Eoin, the rock already referred to, as being about a mile to the west of the church of Moy. Many scientific gentlemen have searched for it since, but I believe have always failed of obtaining it, probably from not being acquainted with the exact situation in which it is to be found. The plants used as medicine are chiefly the leaf of the whortleberry, tussilago, &c. and the people generally bind up wounds with a blade of common cabbage, or a leaf of tobacco. In dyeing, they use the bark of the common alder, which, with copperas, produces a fine black. They also dye green and yellow with heather. They likewise dye various other colours, but black, blue, green, and red are those universally used for their clothing. The common alder is prevalent about lakes, and on the borders of rivers, and in marshy places; but the country also affords fir, ash, aspen, larch, (lately introduced,) birch, mountain-ash, and some other hardwood trees when planted in favourable situations. Fir, birch, and mountain-ash are, however, the most general. Of the former there are several plantations belonging to Mackintosh of Mackintosh, which are very thriving; but the largest are on the property of Mr Macbean of Tomatin. He has about 80 acres in full growth, and has lately planted trees to the number of one million and a

half. There are also some very thriving plantations on the properties of Corrybrough (H. Macqueen Esq.) and of Dalmigavie (Campbell Mackintosh, Esq.) Larch is now coming into general use, and in every plantation it forms the one-half at least. There are some fine old plane and ash trees in the island of Loch Moy, which must have stood there several centuries; and there are still to be traced there the remains of a garden, in some cherry and gean trees, which surround part of the old castle.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Any account which can be obtained of the ancient history of the parish must be derived from tradition, as there are few if any written records. There is, however, one manuscript kept in Moy Hall, written by Lady Ann Duff, giving an account of the Rebellion in 1715, with a very interesting account of many other events, which took place prior to that period. This lady was the wife of Lachlan Mackintosh, Esq. of Mackintosh, and acted a conspicuous part during the Rebellion. The Presbytery records carry the history back as far as 1680; but part of the session records were destroyed several years ago, from the school-house taking fire. We learn from the former, that Episcopal jurisdiction continued till about the year 1727, when the first Presbyterian minister (Mr Leslie) was settled. It is related in proof of the barbarous state of the country, that the first time Mr Leslie went to preach in Dalarrossie, he found a great multitude of people putting the stone, and amusing themselves otherwise about the church. He found it impossible to gain a hearing, until he agreed to try his strength in putting the stone, on condition that they would agree to join him afterwards in the church, if he should be found to surpass them. Mr Leslie being a powerful man distanced them all,—which so attracted the respect of the people, that he soon brought them round to regularity and order. The traditional history is principally taken up with the feuds of the Mackintoshs and the Cummings; and many tumuli are pointed out as the graves of the slain. Some of these have been opened and bones found; and stone arrow-heads and dirks have also been discovered on the battle fields, several of which are now deposited in the Inverness museum. There is one extraordinary *coup du main*, related of a Mackintosh during these wars, which has been referred to in a very correct work, lately published, by the Messrs Anderson, Solicitors, of Inverness. The circumstances of the case were as follows:—During a long war between these two

hostile clans, the Cummings had at length driven the Mackintoshs for refuge into the island of Loch Moy. Here they formed the resolution of damming the loch, where the Funtack issues from it, and thus, by raising the water, to cover the island and drown them. They proceeded with their plan till the Mackintoshs were on the eve of destruction, when one of the latter offered, if allowed, to liberate themselves and destroy the Cummings. He accordingly got a raft made, and supplying himself with corks or wooden plugs and twine, he descended in the dead of night to the dam. This was lined, towards the water, with boards, through which the adventurer bored a number of holes with an auger, and in each hole he put a plug with a string attached. All these were attached to one general rope, which, when all was ready, he pulled. When the plugs were extracted, the water rushed out with fearful force, carried away the turf bank, and the whole army of the Cummings, who were encamped behind it. It is said that the daring adventurer perished with his enemies, the force of the water being so great, when the dam gave way, that it swept raft and man along with it. That this event took place at Loch Moy is evident from uniform tradition, from the nature of the place where the dam was erected, it being a narrow gorge easily admitting of such a construction, and also from the fact, that in cleaning the mouth of the lake, some years ago, a number of stakes and beams were discovered fixed about six feet under the surface of the ground, which were evidently fitted for cross boards, and which, from their appearance, must have lain there from time immemorial. Both lakes may claim the honour of this transaction; but Lochindorb does not seem so well fitted for it, and Edward III. was not a man to be taken in such a manner.

Eminent Men.—The only eminent literary individual of whom the parish can boast, is Sir James Mackintosh, Knight, a name well fitted to cast a lustre round any spot in the world. He was descended of the ancient family of Killachy; and although born in the parish of Dores, whither his mother had gone to visit a relation, he spent the greater part of his youth on his paternal property. Although obliged to part with his paternal inheritance, and remove from the land of his youth, by his numerous literary and political avocations, he never forgot it, but during his whole lifetime took an interest in every thing which regarded it.

Land-owners.—The number of heritors is eleven, most of them with very small holdings. These are Mackintosh of Mackintosh;

Mackintosh of Holm; Mackintosh of Killachy; Macbean of Tomatin; Mackintosh of Aberarder; Earl of Moray; Mackintosh of Dalmigavie; Mackintosh of Balnespuk; Macqueen of Corrybrough; the Earl of Cawdor; and Mackintosh of Raigmore. Of these not one resides in the parish, except Mr Macbean of Tomatin, who spends part of the summer months in it. This is a great disadvantage to the district, as non-resident proprietors are the bane of any country. Till of late the number of gentlemen farmers made up the loss; but of these, there is not one now to whom the country people can refer, so that the clergyman is obliged to take on himself the duty of a Justice of Peace.

Parochial Registers.—As mentioned already, the old parochial registers were destroyed by fire. There is now, however, one of births kept. The other business which comes before a session is generally of such a nature, that the recording of it could be of no use.

Mansion Houses.—Only two or three of the proprietors have residences in the parish; the principal of these is Moy Hall, situated at the north end of Loch Moy. It is a modern house, consisting of a middle square with two wings, and is in every respect a commodious residence. It is now inhabited by the Dowager Lady Mackintosh, the proprietor himself living at Daviot. The other residences are plain, though generally comfortable buildings.

III.—POPULATION.

The earliest census of the parish is that of Dr Webster in 1755, at which time the population amounted to 1693. At the time of the last Statistical Account, the number was 1813. In 1821, however, it had decreased to 1334; and in 1831, when the last Government census was taken, there were only 1098, viz. 427 males, and 471 females. This decrease must be wholly attributed to emigration. The proprietors in many places have turned away the whole body of their tenantry, and let their lands out in large sheep farms. This system is a most injurious one to the country; for in the event of a war, Britain is deprived of a set of the best soldiers in existence. Besides, there is no doubt that land well subdivided returns a better rent than large farms; and it is reasonable to suppose that three or four tenants could raise more on the same piece of land than one could do.

There are no towns or villages in the parish, and hence the people are thinly scattered over the whole district. The average of births for the last seven years is about 20, of marriages 7, and of

deaths, about 15. The number of persons under fifteen years of age is supposed to be, at an average, about 350; between fifteen and thirty, about 270; betwixt thirty and fifty, about 228; betwixt fifty and seventy, 200; and above seventy, 50. The number of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, upwards of fifty years of age, is about 68, and of unmarried women about 180, including widows. The number of families is 262, in each of which there is, at an average, three children. The number of inhabited houses is 212; and the number of uninhabited or now building is 22.

The number of families chiefly employed in agriculture is 108
trade, manufactures, or handicraft, 48

There are two insane persons in the parish, one blind and one deaf and dumb.

Character, &c. of the People.—The people are generally of a hardy constitution, and remarkably well-formed,—so that as handsome a company of soldiers could be got in this district as in any part of Scotland. This is owing to their constitutions not being broken by hard labour when young,—as they then generally occupy their time in herding cattle, or in driving them to the southern markets. The language spoken is the Gaelic, which is generally spoken very correctly, but, from the increasing admixture of English, we doubt not that, in a few years, it will be lost altogether. The old customs of the Highlanders are also in a great measure neglected; few or none wear the kilt and belted plaid; and the ancient superstitions, with the ceremonies connected with them, are vanishing away. The game chiefly played is the club and ball, which forms the winter amusement, and the collecting of the people for a trial of skill at this game is the only remnant of the old mode of celebrating the Christmas and new year holydays. The belief in ghosts and fairies still exists, but in a very modified degree. At funerals the whole people of the parish are generally collected, if the deceased be a person of respectability; and those who are invited, alternately by two and two, watch the body in the churchyard,—a very unnecessary trouble. They do not drink much of ardent spirits at funerals, since they are limited by the Justices of Peace to three glasses of whisky,—two in the house before starting and one in the churchyard. On marriage occasions, a bagpipe always precedes the parties on their way to the church, and in the evening there is a dinner given gratis, and drinking afterwards, for which each pays a certain sum. There are always music and dancing. Upon the whole, however, the character of the people is very moral.

They seldom drink to excess, and drunken brawls are rare. They are regular in their attendance on divine worship; and it may safely be said that there is scarcely a family in the whole parish in which family devotion is not maintained morning and evening. With all this, there is not much vital Christianity; a sort of rigid, cold morality is the characteristic of their religion. The people generally live comfortably, considering their station. They have bread, potatoes, milk, butter and cheese, and many of them animal food; and for the most part they are cheerful and contented, and particularly kind to the poor. If any thing can be particularized as unfavourable in their character, it is, that they are possessed of their full share of that sly, low cunning which is so common among Highlanders. The houses are generally built like those of their ancestors; but there are a good many stone and lime houses building now. They retain the dirty habit of having the dunghill before the door,—a habit which it seems impossible to cure. Poaching is little known; and the game laws are very strict, and readily put in force against offenders. The fishing of the streams is not prevented by the proprietors, and, indeed, is scarcely worth the prohibiting,—as they are non-resident, and the number of fish killed can have little effect upon the fishing. Killing the fish by torch light; at spawning time, is, however, much practised, and is most injurious to the fishing, as they are then in shallow water, and utterly helpless. Smuggling prevails to a considerable extent, especially in winter; but it has not been found to be accompanied by those heinous effects which have accompanied it in many places. They merely resort to it as a more profitable method of getting quit of their barley, than selling it in raw grain; and, in fact, it is not looked upon as a breach of the law. The people have strong prejudices against medical advice; and often require the sanction of their minister before they take such medicines as are prescribed. There is an Infirmary at Inverness for affording medical relief to the poor; but this, although often of great benefit, is only used in extreme cases, and even then with great reluctance. The people themselves have little medical knowledge, and whether for a fever or a cold, or consumption, or a pleurisy, whisky is the universal antidote. Within the last year or two, they are improving in this respect; but their prejudices, although shaken, are far from being removed.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

This parish is wholly agricultural, so that the whole males are

employed in farm labour, except the few artisans employed by the inhabitants. There is nothing in the way of manufacturing, if we except the home-made cloths manufactured by the families. The quantity of this, however, is diminishing, as they find it more profitable to sell their wool, and to purchase cloth. There are weavers, 6; tailors, 5; blacksmiths, 3; and carpenters, 7; and 1 cooper. These are kept in employment by the country people. There are also a few dry-stone masons for building houses, dikes, &c. Every man is his own shoemaker, or rather brogue-maker; a shoemaker has, however, lately settled in the country. Some of the people generally keep a few articles, such as snuff, tobacco, &c. for retail; but there is no regular shop in the parish. Few of the tenants keep men-servants, since their children generally remain with them until they marry, or settle otherwise; but on large farms there are, between agriculturists and shepherds, above the age of twenty, about 25 male servants, and under that age, 53; female servants, 37.

Agriculture.—There is little of the parish, in proportion to its size, under cultivation; at the utmost, it is but 2820 acres, and a great part of this is merely outshot, or occasionally under tillage. Besides this, the number of acres in waste, including the hill pasture, is 93,180 imperial acres. There is little of this which could be profitably made arable, since sheep pay so well; and probably not more than 1300 acres are improvable with advantage.

A considerable part of the hill pasture is in common, especially where there are two or three tenants in one farm; and the extent of this common may be fairly estimated at 23,000 acres. Wood is generally scarce of late years; but planting is becoming more general. Mr Macbean of Tomatin has planted about a million and a-half of larch and fir trees, on his property; and there are considerable old plantations on the estate of Mackintosh near Moy Hall. The total extent under wood is

	<i>Planted.</i>	<i>Natural.</i>
On the estate of Mackintosh,	155 acres.	500 acres.
Tomatin,	280	8
Raigmore,	8	20
Lord Moray,	0	150
Dalmigavie,	15	3
Kylachy,	8	10
- Corrybrough More,	0	400
Laggan,	0	50
Corrybrough,	6	13
	<hr/> 472	<hr/> 1154

Fir and larch are the timber generally planted; but birch, mountain-ash, and aspen, are indigenous to the whole parish. The

thinning, &c. does not proceed upon a regular system, so that the management is not particularly good. The thinnings of fir wood generally sell at about 6d. per dozen.

Rent of Land.—Arable land does not let high. In fact, there is little grain raised beyond what is necessary for the inhabitants themselves, and often not even that, as the only profitable stock is black-cattle and sheep. Land in cultivation lets at about L. 1 per acre. The rent of grazing may be taken at about L. 1, 15s. per cow, and 1s. 9d. per sheep, allowing two and a-half acres to a cow, and perhaps six acres of hill pasture to a sheep.

Rate of Wages.—Country labour is about the same rate as in the neighbouring districts. It averages, summer and winter, 1s. 3d. per day to a man without victuals; and for a farm-servant about L. 4, 10s. in the half year: masons, carpenters, &c. get 2s. per day, and other artisans at the same rate.

Live Stock.—The breed of sheep and cattle has been much improved of late. The black-faced sheep has superseded the small white Highland breed, and the Highland black cattle are daily improving in size and quality. The Highland Society gave some prizes a few years ago, which roused the spirit of emulation, and raised a desire for better cattle.

Husbandry.—The general system of husbandry is, however, not good. Lime is unknown, except among the more wealthy; and black oats are the most common grain. After a series of crops, the land is left for a year in ley; which they manure again, and so on, giving the greater portion of the manure to the ley land, instead of laying it on green crop, which only consists of a few potatoes. Were lime introduced, the improvement would be astonishing; for where this has been the case, the soil has been so rich as to give in one place fifteen returns of wheat, and in another seventeen returns of barley. The soil is in most parts alluvial, and where this is not the case it is fine black mould. The nature of the leases is much against improvement. The tenants are almost all tenants at will, or from year to year; and, besides, their lands are so subdivided, being *ridge* about, as it is called, that improvement is almost out of the question. This state of things is changing now, and nineteen years leases are becoming common; good farm steadings are in the course of being built, and many comfortable houses erected, especially on the estate of Mackintosh, and also on that of Tomatin. The people themselves are not very spirited; they are unwilling to give up old customs, so that the landlords have the trouble of forcing

their good things on the tenants. By degrees, however, they are improving, and in a few years we may expect to see as comfortable and substantial a set of tenantry here as we can see any where.

Produce.—The amount and value of the raw produce raised in the parish, as far as can be ascertained, is as follows :

Produce of grain of all kinds whether cultivated for food of man or of domestic animals,	L. 5640	0	0
Potatoes and turnips	700	0	0
Hay, whether meadow or cultivated,	225	0	0
Of land pasture for cows, rating it at L. 1, 15s. per cow,	822	0	0
Of land in pasture for sheep, rating it at 1s. 9d. per sheep per year,	1333	6	8
Besides this the value of wool is at an average of the last seven years, 13s. per double stone,	700	0	0
Annual thinning and periodical felling of woods,	30	0	0
Miscellaneous produce,	25	0	0
Total value of raw produce, L. 9475 6 8			

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Markets, &c.—The nearest market-town is Inverness, which is distant about twelve miles from Moy. Here the people sell all their commodities, such as butter, cheese, &c. There are three principal markets held there in the year, the Marymas in August, Martinmas in November, and Candlemas in February. Inverness is also the nearest post-town; but it is in contemplation to bring the mail by the Highland road, and then letters can be had quite at hand. This road passes through the parish for ten miles, and has lately undergone a great improvement, both as to the line, which was formerly very steep, and as to the length, it being now shortened by about three miles. The Highland coach to Perth from Inverness passes along it, once every day, and is generally well filled with passengers. Besides this, there are various district roads intersecting the parish, which are made by the converted Statute Labour. The bridges on the district roads are all wooden, and are often swept away by the streams. The stone bridge over the Findhorn was swept away in 1829, and has been replaced by a handsome edifice, the arches of which are of wood supported on stone pillars. This bridge was built at an expense of L. 2600.

Ecclesiastical State.—There are two churches in this parish, one at Moy and the other at Dalarrossie, in which divine service is performed alternately. The one at Moy is very ill situated, being quite in a corner of the parish, and far from the great body of the population. That at Dalarrossie is perfectly central, and, except when the river is high, easily accessible by the whole parish. Both the churches are old. The church at Moy was built in the year 1765, and was substantially repaired in 1829. It is, however,

cold in winter, there being no less than five doors to it. The church of Dalarrossie was built in 1790, and is in every respect as good as the church of Moy, except in not being ceiled; that is, however, easily remedied. Both churches are situated in a church-yard. That at Dalarrossie is remarkable as not having a stone the size of an egg to the depth of seven feet, although surrounded by stony soil. The tradition is, that it was sifted by the Druids. The churches contain about 450 sitters each. These seats are all free except that the tenant, on taking possession, pays a few shillings,—which on vacating is repaid by the incoming tenant.

The manse is situated at the church of Moy, nine miles from Dalarrossie, and was built in 1765. A wing was added in 1810; but it is far from being comfortable. There are glebes in both parishes, to both of which are attached commonties on the neighbouring farms, and, including this, they may each be worth about L. 6 per annum. The stipend amounts to 15 chalders victual, half barley, half meal, besides L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. From 1797, when it was first augmented, until 1812, it was only L. 105 Sterling. In 1812, it was raised to 12 chalders victual; and in 1832 it was augmented to the present amount of 15 chalders, with barley substituted for bear, which constituted half of the old stipend. Besides the parish churches, there is no other place of worship in the parish; indeed, there are only one or two Dissenters (Episcopalians) in the parish, and these are regular in their attendance on the Established Church. Divine service is very well attended in both churches; but the population being more dense around that of Dalarrossie, the congregation is generally larger. The sacrament is dispensed once each year, and is generally attended by all the neighbouring parishes, so that on Sabbath the number is seldom less than 5000. As in most parts of the Highlands, there is a meeting for discussing religious topics on the Friday before the communion, in which pious men from all parts of the country take a part. The number of communicants is very small; at an average it is not above 30; but including communicants from neighbouring parishes, about 250 generally communicate here. There are various reasons for there being so few in the parish; but it is chiefly owing to the peculiar doctrines instilled into the minds of the people, chiefly by demagogues, in regard to the sacrament of the supper.

There are few collections made for religious and charitable purposes. The people are poor. There are few gentlemen of wealth;

and, with the exception of the little they get from the poors' fund, the poor are entirely supported by the benevolence of the parishioners. There is, however, generally about L. 12 Sterling per annum, collected chiefly for the General Assembly's India Mission, the Inverness Education Society, and the Northern Infirmary. This may appear small; but when the situation of the people is considered, the sum will appear very considerable. These collections are almost all made either in the church, or by sending some persons round as collectors. This is generally done by the district schoolmasters, who know the situation and circumstances of most of the people.

Education.—There is perhaps not a parish in Scotland where education is carried on to a greater extent than here. There is a school in almost every nook, and there is at present one individual out of every $3\frac{3}{4}$ under education. This is what can be said of no other parish in Scotland, although we have lately seen the number at school in a good many of them stated at 1 in 4, or 1 in 5. The schools are as follows: Parochial school, 1; aid schools by Societies, 6; school for girls by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, 1. The branches taught are, reading (English and Gaelic,) English grammar, writing and arithmetic, with Latin and book-keeping in some instances. The pupils are carefully instructed in the Shorter Catechism in both languages, and religious instruction forms a great part of the course of education. They are also habituated to writing original letters, bills, receipts, &c. and this has been found to be of great advantage. The parish schoolmaster has a salary of L. 30, with a good house and garden; and, including fees, the yearly income will amount to about L. 40 Sterling. The fees are the same in all the schools, and amount to 1s. 6d. per quarter for reading and writing, and 2s. 6d. for the higher branches, as arithmetic, book-keeping, &c. The other schools are upon the aid scheme, and supported partly by the people, and partly by the Inverness Education Society. Some of the best informed country lads are employed during the winter half-year, by the people who have the choice of the schoolmaster; and each gets 1s. per quarter for each scholar from the Society. This system has answered uncommonly well; and, were it introduced more generally in the Highlands, would be productive of the most beneficial consequences, and the expense of supporting it is a mere trifle. The six schools in the parish were sustained last year at an expense of only L. 12 to the Society, and of little beyond the living of the schoolmaster to the people. Indeed, the masters have little above L. 5 each in the half-year for

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their services, yet they are satisfied. There is a great emulation between the different teachers, and the great question is, who will have the best school on the day when they are all brought together for examination. This is a day looked forward to as one of the most important in the whole year, by both young and old, and it has always proved a source of great satisfaction to those who attend at the examination. The state of education is improving yearly; and there is one fault peculiar to the Highlands, which has been got quit of, and that is, the long drawl with which the words are pronounced in reading. This is now removed, and the style of reading is generally excellent. There is a school for girls supported by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, in which the pupils are taught sewing and all sorts of needle-work, and are kept in mind of their reading and writing. The school is generally attended by from 15 to 20 scholars. The salary is L. 5 a-year to the mistress, besides some trifling fees. From the number of schools, there is not one person in the parish between the ages of six and fifteen, who cannot read or write; and above that age, the number cannot be above 125; the number at the last enumeration being 145. These are, however, all old people, and are dying fast away, so that soon there will not be an uneducated person in the parish. Education is prized very highly. Every one who can, goes to school, and this desire has been so well met by the Inverness Society, that there is not a single additional school wanted,—except that it would be highly advantageous were one of the schools permanent, *i. e.* kept up for the whole year, since the aid schools only continue six months, and sometimes not quite so much. The General Assembly's Committee has been petitioned to this effect; and it is hoped that the petition may be attended with success, as the object is highly praiseworthy, and the people and heritors are willing to afford every accommodation. This prevalence of education has had a great effect on the intelligence of the people. Every two or three villages join in getting a newspaper, and this has as yet had no bad effect; and it is to be hoped will have none. As to their morals, they have always been remarkable for sobriety, steadiness, and honesty; and education has perhaps in general tended to confirm these good qualities. Education takes a long time to produce a complete change upon the manners and views of a country; it lies for a long time on the surface, and it has not yet taken deep enough root here, to produce any visible effect upon the morals of the inhabitants. It, however, promises fair; and we hope in a few

years to see education take its full effect, and attended by those beneficial results which it is calculated to produce.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of poor is great for the population; and the sum to meet their support is in general very low. The average number of poor is 40; these are divided into classes, which receive according to their necessities. They receive at an average, the first class, 12s. per annum; second do. 10s. do.; third do. 7s. do. The annual collections amount to about L. 13, 14s. 11d. exclusive of donations. These generally amount to about L. 8 per annum; besides which, the sum of L. 54 has been bequeathed for the use of the poor, viz. L. 10 by the late Lodovick Macbean, Esq. of Tomatin, and L. 44 by the late Æneas Macbean, Esq. Junior of do. This is all the support the poor have; and in bad years goes but a very little way. They are, however, generally very unwilling to seek relief from the session, and they only ask it when necessitated to do so for the means of subsistence.

Fairs.—There are seven fairs held in the parish, viz. six cattle trysts, being one during each of the summer and autumn months, and one lamb market, on the third Friday of August. These are held at the Inn of Freeburn, which is situated about the middle of the parish, and are generally well attended by dealers,—the time for holding them being regulated so as to suit the dealers, when on their return from the great northern markets.

Inns.—There are three inns in the parish; two of the houses are good, and the third merely a dram-house. They are all on the line of the Highland road, and are in summer well supported,—the number of travellers being then great. These are of no advantage certainly to the morals of the people, but they are not productive of much evil; the country people do not frequent them much, and drunken quarrels are rare, except perhaps at markets.

Fuel.—The common fuel used is peats. These are found in abundance all over the parish, and the quality is as good as is to be found any where. They are cut in the end of May, and in the month of July are fit for carrying home and stacking. The expense of cutting is trifling,—about L. 2, 10s. for a quantity which would supply a large family during the year; but there is the additional trouble of leading, which for that quantity would require ten days with three horses, bringing them from the distance of two miles.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

In husbandry, there is no doubt the parish is susceptible of immense improvement. The soil is excellent, and all it wants is

proper management. Lime is, however, expensive. Besides the carriage from Inverness or Strathspey, there is the expense of tolls; and until this useful article is quarried within the parish, little can be expected. That it does exist within the parish is beyond a doubt; but the property on which it has been found is under trust, and improvement requires the fostering hand of a resident landlord. A spirit of improvement is, however, rising up among the tenantry, and in a few years we hope to see a new system introduced. In fact, this is the only thing that can put a stop to emigration. Our young men, for want of employment, are leaving us to seek their fortunes in America, and the old, whom prejudice has fixed in favour of old measures, are left to proceed in the routine pointed out by their ancestors, centuries ago. The young men can see the benefit of improvement, and can act upon it. They go to work in other parts of the country, and see the improvements carrying on there, and can apply them on their return; but these are all leaving us for the new world, where, from the great and spirited improvements carrying on, they hope to better their fortunes. Emigration is so far useful as an outlet for our superabundant population; but the ease with which it is accomplished raises a spirit of discontent, and a desire of change in our people, which makes them feel restless and uneasy in their present condition. The only true method of preventing it is by introducing a spirit of improvement among our tenantry; and when this is met by the liberality of the landlord, we shall hope to see the population of our Highland glens comfortable and happy, and not wishing to change their native land for what they may suppose to be the comforts of a foreign soil.

January 1836.