

PARISH OF GLENURCHY & INISHAIL.

PRESBYTERY OF LORN, SYNOD OF ARGYLE.

THE REV. DUNCAN MACLEAN, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Names.—THE parish of Glenurchy,—so called from the valley in which it chiefly lies, and the river which flows through it,—was of old known by the name of *Clachan an disart*. The valley itself takes its name from the river Urchay, which, issuing from a small lake in the braes or upland part of the parish, traverses a great part of it; and, after a run of sixteen miles, empties itself in Lochawe, close to the ruins of Caolchurn Castle. The parish still retains its ancient name in all ecclesiastical deeds and records. All the minutes of session are uniformly dated at Clachan an disart. The name, as stated in the former report, signifies *the temple or sanctuary of the Supreme Being*. Tradition alleges, that Druidism, of old, occupied the spot on which the church now stands; that her *clachan* or circle of stones stood, and that her detestable mysteries were celebrated, on the hallowed spot whither the multitudes now go up to worship the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Inishail, the conjoined parish, derives its appellation from an island of the same name in Lochawe, and on which stood the parish church, from the Reformation till the year 1736, when it was transferred to its present site. The ruins of the old church are still visible, as are those of a nunnery said to have been of the Cistercian order. Close by these interesting ruins lies a burying ground, on which some of the grave stones furnish beautiful specimens of ancient sculpture. Inishail, according to some, signifies *the beautiful island*, and is so called on account of its superiority in this respect to the neighbouring islands. According to others, it signifies *the Island of St Paul*, because it was, as is supposed, dedicated, with the religious establishment that stood upon it, to that distinguished apostle,—in contradistinction to the island of Inishdrinich,

or the Isle of Druids, in its close neighbourhood. According to others, it signifies the Island of Paul, viz. Paul the Treasurer of Scotland, or, as he is called in Gaelic, Paul an Sporain, the founder of the noble house of Argyle, who is said to have been buried here; whilst, according to a fourth party, and in accordance with a still current tradition, it signifies the Island of Aillidh, or the beautiful, a daughter of a King of Denmark, whose remains are said to be interred here.

Extent and Boundaries.—The extreme length of the parish, from the shores of Lochetive at Bunawe, on the west, to the borders of Perthshire, near Tyndrum, in Breadalbane, on the east, is from 24 to 25 miles. Its breadth is various and unequal, ranging from 5 to 20 miles. Its average breadth is about 12 miles. Number of square miles, about 300. It is bounded on the east, by the parish of Killin; on the west, by the parishes of Inverary, Kilchrenan, and Muckairn, and for a short space by Lochetive; on the south, by the parishes of Kilmorick, Inverary, and Arrochar; and on the north-west and north, by the parishes of Ardchattan and Appin; and on the north-east, near the confines of Rannoch, by the parish of Fortingal.

Topographical Appearances.—The principal range of mountains in the parish may be designated the Cruachan range, which stretches along the north and north-east side of the parish, rearing up its gigantic masses, and forming a formidable barrier, between Glenurchy and the counterminous parishes of Ardchattan and Appin. This range embraces several mountains of great elevation, such as Beinabhuidh, or hill of routing; Stob an daimh, or the stot's peak; Bein Macmonaidh, or mountain son of the hill; and Bein dourain, or the mountain of ottara,—a mountain dear to the Highland muse, and rendered immortal by the most distinguished of our later Highland bards, the pre-eminently poetical, though illiterate Duncan Bàn M'Intyre. In the parish of Inishail, there are no hills of any great height. The only range which occurs, is that which separates it from the parish of Inverary, a great part of which comes, with greater propriety, under the designation of moor, than either of hill or mountain. This range, which stretches away from the westward to the eastern extremity of Lochawe, extends along the south side of the vale of the Urchay,—forming, by its comparative insipidity and tameness, a marked and striking contrast to the steep, rugged, and lofty

summits of Cruachan, and the lone and lovely green corries and valleys which they overhang and overshadow.

This range of hills, or rather moors, terminates at length at the base of Meall nan Tighearnan, viz. *the hill of the chiefs*, and Beinachlèidh, two of the offshoots and buttresses of Beinlaoidh, or *mountain of fawns*. Beinlaoidh is unquestionably the loftiest mountain in the parish, (Bein Cruachan being situate in the parish of Ardchattan,) and although now denuded and shorn of the woods which even at a comparatively recent period clothed and adorned its sides, it is one of the most elegant of mountains in a district in which it is no easy matter to adjust the competing claims of a host of rivals for this distinction. This constitutes the western extremity of a chain of mountains which stretches eastward, forming the southern boundary of the parish of Killin, including in the number the towering and gigantic Bein-More and Bein-Ann.

The Cruachan chain is occasionally broken and interrupted by interjacent corries and valleys. In the number of the latter, we may place Glenstrae, at one period the homestead and fastness of the chief of the brave but persecuted and proscribed Clan Gregor. The valley which gives its name to the parish, is another. The former, which lies immediately at the base of the principal offshoot of Cruachan, is separated from the latter by a ridge of hills of comparatively low elevation, whilst this, in its turn, is separated from Glenlochay, a long winding valley, (through which lies the line of communication with Perthshire,) by another range of hills of still lower elevation. These three valleys open from the east and north-east on that part of Glenurchy which the natives call the Strath, or plain. Glenlochay runs nearly eastward, with a bend or inclination to the north. Glenurchy proper, which lies north of the other, and which inclines in the same way, opens up a communication with Inverness-shire, by the Black Mount, and the much admired and celebrated Glencoe. The river Urchay, after receiving the waters of the Lochay, at a point two miles east from the church, now swollen into a beautiful river, winds its course through the Strath, forming several beautiful islands as it advances, amongst others that on which stand the church and manse, and which forms the better part of the minister's glebe,—until, having received the waters of the Strae, it discharges itself at length into the magnificent Lochawe, close to the base of the ruins of Caoichurn.

Caves, &c.—The only cave of any interest is that in which

MacFadyen sought refuge after his defeat by Wallace at the pass of Brander, and where he was dragged out and executed. It is still pointed out as MacFadyen's Cave, in the face of Craig an Araidh, as is the stone on which he stood to breathe a little in the middle of the Awe after his defeat, and from which, after relieving himself of his armour, and, throwing it into the river, he plunged into the stream, and, amid showers of darts, he gained the opposite bank. The stone is still called MacFadyen's stone, and as such is pointed out to the stranger.

The parish has not above three-fourths of a mile of sea coast altogether: this is at Bunawe. The character of the shore is sandy.

Hydrography.—The principal lakes in the parish are Lochawe and Lochtolla. The latter is situated in the braes of Glenurchy. It is but a small, yet a lovely sheet of water. It is about four miles in length, and its average breadth is a mile. On the north side, at Ardvrecknish, the Marquis of Breadalbane, sole proprietor of Glenurchy, has a shooting-lodge set down in the centre of his vast deer-forest of Corichbad. The lodge, with its young thriving plantations, contrasts beautifully with the pine-wood forest of Derridarroch on the opposite shore of the lake, and lends, with its exciting associations of deer, and hounds, and huntsmen, a high degree of interest to this lone and solitary mountain tarn.

The parish stretches westward, on both sides of Lochawe, eight miles. This, beyond controversy, is one of the noblest and loveliest of Scotland's lakes. Its length is variously estimated. It is somewhere between twenty-four and thirty miles. Its breadth is very unequal, expanding in some places and contracting in others. It may be averaged at a mile, excepting towards its eastern extremity, where its principal charms and attractions lie, and where it expands into a breadth of three miles. Its depth varies in different places. It is in some places seventy fathoms deep. It is said to be very deep along the base of Cruachan, and at the gorge of the magnificent pass by which its waters effect their escape, and urge their turbulent and noisy career to Lochetive. This noble sheet of water is far from being so generally known, admired, and frequented, as its superior claims would justly authorize to expect. The upper or eastern end, that which lies in this parish, is decidedly, in point of historical interest and scenic beauty, far superior to the other. Here, peering above the embowering trees, which have succeeded in veiling it partially from the view, Traochaillein Castle, at one time the seat and stronghold of the chief of the clan

MacNaughtan, and built by a Sir Gilbert of that name in the reign of King Alexander III., solicits the traveller's admiration. Superior architectural beauty, and historical recollections and associations, may, for other ruins, procure an ampler measure of interest and admiration, yet few there are which can, in point of local beauty, enter into successful competition with Fraocheilein Castle. Based on its own twin, yet tiny rock in the middle of the lake,—girdled about with the adjacent islands of Inchchonnain, Inishail, and several others,—commanding a view of the lake eastward to its termination at Caolchurn, and, beyond it, of the valleys of the Urchay and Strae, and westward for a space of eight miles,—overhung, on the northern shore, by the towering summits of Beineruachan, having in full prospect the well-wooded shores of Ardteale and Cladich,—nor less on the opposite banks, the lovely plantations, and the elegant mansions and pleasure-grounds of Inishdraonich and New Inverawe,—few indeed are the ruins that can enter into successful rivalry with those of Fraocheilein Castle. Nor lacks it its own historical and poetical associations. Here stood the Hesperides of Ossian; and here, mortally wounded by the monster dragon that guarded the forbidden fruit, perished the chivalrous and youthful Traoch,—but not ere his venomous foe perished under his powerful arm.* It is alleged that the tenure by which Sir Gilbert and his heirs held his castle and neighbouring possessions from his sovereign, was, that he should give him befitting entertainment in the event that he should ever claim it, special provision being made that the king should be accommodated with a bed of clean straw.† The key of this ancient stronghold, which was, for many centuries, the property and residence of Macdhonchie of Inverawe, was picked up among the ruins, not many years ago, by a gentleman in the neighbourhood, who recently handed it over to Campbell of Monzie, the present proprietor, who has it now in his possession.

Much superior in point of extent, and certainly in nowise inferior in any other respect, either to this or any other ruin in the Highlands of Scotland, and at a distance of about five miles eastward, at the extremity of the lake, stands Caolchurn Castle, now in ruins, still the property, and, for centuries, one of the many residences and fortresses of the noble family of Breadalbane. This magnificent pile is based upon a rock, which is said to have been, at the time of its erection, an island. Standing on the moulder-

* Vide Former Statistical Report.

† Ibid.

ing battlements, or looking out through its narrow casements, you may extend your view westward, (unbroken by the numerous islands that repose like emeralds on the bosom of the lake,) to a distance of nine or ten miles, until at length the lake apparently terminates at the ferry of Portsonachan. On the north side, Bein-cruachan, separated from you by the narrow channel of the Urchay, which partly gives the castle its name, and is beautifully wooded midway up its summit, rears his lofty brow, until it is enveloped amid the clouds of heaven. On the south, and separated from you by a narrow bay, rise the beautiful knolls of Ardteatle and Kenchraikin, — here skirted with wood, there mantled with heath and green breckon, — with their lovely glades opening between, the favourite haunt of the hare and the roe. In front of the castle opens, towards the north-east, the bleak, dark, and frowning Glenstrae; and, towards the south-east, and in marvellous and striking contrast, the verdant, soft, and smiling strath and vale of Urchay, terminating at the base of the lofty and conical Beinlaoidh. In the centre of this beautiful panorama, embowered in wood, partial glimpses may be obtained of the manse, and parish church, and inn, awaking far other emotions from those excited by the castellated pile from which the survey is made, and whence the eye roams delighted over the noble and lovely scenes that open away on either hand.

Caolchurn Castle, at once the memorial and chronicler of the feudal power and grandeur of the noble family which still owns it, is said to have been, before it came into its possession, the residence and stronghold of MacGregor, Laird of Glenurchy. A tradition exists, that, before it came into the possession, either of the Clan Campbell or Clan Gregor, it was the residence of an ancient tribe, now no longer existing in the parish, of the name of Paterson; and that, while in their possession, it was designated the White House of Eilaineolain. It came, together with the lordship of Glenurchy, into the possession of the family of Breadalbane, either in the close of the reign of James II. or in the beginning of the reign of his successor. It is highly probable that the Clan Gregor, along with the neighbouring Clans of M'Nab and M'Naughtan, became involved in the wars of Bruce and Baliol, and that their castles and lands became the reward of the distinguished services of the Knights of Lochawe. It was bestowed, with other appendages, as his patri-

mony, by Sir Duncan, the twelfth knight, on his second son, Sir Colin, Knight of Rhodes, or, as he is called by Highland Sheanachies, *Cailean dubh na Róimh*, the founder of the house of Breadalbane; and hence the patronymic designation of this noble family is *Mac Caillein mhic Dhonochaidh*, or Colin son of Duncan. He partly rebuilt and enlarged the castle. Tradition gives his lady credit for the erection of the great tower or donjon of the castle. She, it is said, occupied herself thus, during Sir Colin's absence in the Holy Land. The date of its erection was 1440. It received several additions at different subsequent periods. The south side is said to have been built, during the fifteenth century; and the north, which exceeds the rest in spaciousness and elegance, was built by the first Earl of Breadalbane in the year 1615.* The noble family occasionally occupied it till about a century ago. About seventy years ago, in the absence, and without the privity of its noble proprietor, and with a view, it is said, to a paltry saving of expense, it was unroofed, and its materials used, not, as has been alleged,† in the erection of Taymouth Castle, but of farm-houses and offices in the parish. This hastened its decay prematurely. It is lovely in its ruins, and intensely interesting from the records of other times connected with it.

The pass of Brandir, whilst its sublime scenery is greatly enhanced in point of interest, by many historical recollections and associations,‡ is, independently of all these, one of the most magnificent which the Highlands present. It is by this mountain pass that the waters of Lochawe effect their escape to the sea. The north side is formed by the massy, abrupt, and rocky, yet well-wooded base of Cruachan, which rises in some places like a perpendicular wall from the water, and which, until the present line of road was executed, rendered it impassable to any except the sure-footed and steady-headed mountaineer. Even he had, at one place, still known by the name of the ladder rock, to climb up by a ladder, as the name would intimate, the face of a bold and precipitous rock, which then shot down its masses abrupt to the water edge. This formidable barrier has, at length, yielded to human might and ingenuity; and its removal has given access to scenes nowhere surpassed, either in point of loveliness or grandeur, and rendered the sea at Bunawe accessible to the mountaineer for exporting his produce to southern markets. The south side of the pass

* Vide General Stewart's History of Highland Regiments.

† See Bridal of Caolchurn.

‡ See Blind Harry.

is formed by the bold, rugged, and overhanging rocks of Craigan-duvauidh, now completely shorn of its once rich garniture of wood. At the gap, or upper part, and only distinguished for a space from its parent lake by its narrowed and contracted dimensions, the Awe steals slowly and silently along, until at length, as if alive to the blessings of freedom, it rushes rapidly, foaming, and thundering along its rocky bed, till, after a short but rapid career of four miles through its own lovely valley, it empties itself in Lochetive at Bunawe.

The only rivers in the parish worthy of the name, are the Urchay and the Awe. The circumstance that the former escapes from its reservoir in a lateral direction, is rather a singular and anomalous one in the history of rivers. It is believed that it holds almost universally true, that their outlet is at the extremity of their parent lake, and not, as in this instance, at the side. It is the current belief, that the Awe, at a remote period, formed no exception to this general rule, that Lochawe discharged its waters by its western extremity into the sea at Loch Crinan. The foundation on which this belief rests, is partly a faint and dying tradition in the country to this effect, and the names of some localities in the supposed line of its ancient channel, and the level, open nature of the valley that stretches away towards Loch Crinan from the western extremity of the lake, together with the anomalous character of its present outlet. The run of the Awe, as already stated, is short, although the volume of its water is great, as compared with that of most Highland rivers. Its breadth varies according to the nature of the bed over which it runs; from two to three hundred feet, may be a fair average. Its direction is north-west. It is, generally speaking, a shallow stream; although pools occasionally occur of considerable depth. Its flow is very rapid; indeed, until it approaches Lochetive, it may be described as a series of small rapids and puny cataracts. The Urchay, whose source, length, and character, have been already in some degree described, is, like its neighbour, an exceedingly beautiful river, and like it of considerable value on account of its salmon fishings. It may lay claim to a greater variety of character than its neighbour. Its flows from the parent lake for a space of six miles, rapid and turbulent; and at one place, Caitnish, it descends by a succession of bounds or leaps of considerable height, to the more level part of the valley; and thereafter, although occasionally assuming its former character, it meanders silently along, until at length

it loses itself in Lochawe. Its breadth may average that of the Awe. It is generally shallow, until it approaches the termination of its course, when it acquires a much greater depth, and becomes slow and sluggish in its motion, as if unwilling to mingle its waters with those of the lake. It is a lovely stream, and in exquisite keeping with the ever-varying yet ever-beautiful scenery through which it flows, and of which it constitutes so very essential an element, and prominent a feature.

It presents no falls of any great magnitude. Those of Caitnish are chiefly interesting, from the grotesque and fantastic shapes into which the incessant action of the water has moulded the rock over which it urges its noisy and angry career.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The greatest part of the parish is composed of stratified rocks of the primary series. Mica slate and gneiss chiefly prevail. Both these rocks change into one another very gradually, so that it is difficult to decide where the one ends and the other begins. The mica slate receives felspar into its composition, and if the felspar increases so far as to equal or exceed the quartz and mica, gneiss is formed. Gneiss occupies the most northern parts of the district, and is most fully developed at Bendourain and Lochtolla. The bearing of the strata is from north-east to south-west, almost parallel with the direction of the Grampians.

Gneiss and mica slate, especially the latter, include subordinate strata of talc, chlorite, hornblende slate and clay slate, and limestone. The limestone, however, is not found in a very pure state, but much mixed with mica and quartz, so as to appear as mica slate, where the quartz is supplanted by lime. Limestone occurs near the manse on the banks of the Urchay, and a bed of it extends westward for miles from the farm of Sockoch in Glenorchy, along the face of the range of hills that divides the parish from Kilchrenan and Inverary.

Igneous rocks appear on a large scale at Black mount and near Lochawe. Granite and porphyry are the chief representatives of those rocks. Granite occupies a large space at Blackmount, Glenetive, and Glencò. It is highly crystalline; its relation to porphyry is remarkable. The porphyry, being imperfectly crystallized granite, is found in veins in the perfect granite, and projects also occasionally in fissures in the neighbouring mica slate and gneiss. The igneous rocks, granite, and porphyry have altered the nearest strata of schist; the mica is found melted, and

the position, moreover, of the strata is seen to be altered, and their dipping is irregular. This change of position of the stratified rocks has affected the formation of valleys in the district, more especially those occupied by lakes, as Lochtolla and Lochawe, where deep rents or fissures have been caused by the disturbance of the strata.

Greenstone and syenite seldomer occur in veins in mica-slate, but when they do, they are found partly parallel with the bearing of that rock, and partly intersecting it, running from north north-east to south south-west. Beautiful syenite is found in the farm of Auch on Benbuy, north of Tighandrom. Abundant veins of quartz intersect the stratified rocks, carrying often lead glance, and that in so abundant quantity, as to constitute an object of mining speculation. The bearing of the veins is in general from north north-east to south south-west, one vein only with lead runs parallel with the strata. This vein occurs near Arivean. Large quartz dikes are found parallel with the smaller veins. These project above the surface in high walls, and extend for many miles in unbroken continuous lines, across hills and valleys. In these dikes, the quartz is quite compact, and includes no other mineral, —in some instances, however, their continuation becomes of a softer nature, and carries lead ore. In cases of this kind, those veins are not seen rising above the neighbouring strata. Some quartz veins contain pyrites, which mineral is very abundant in the layers of quartz belonging to the formation of mica-schist. There is no great variety of minerals in the district, besides those composing the rocks; as quartz, mica, felspar, talc, chlorite, hornblende and limestone. The following are the extraneous minerals, viz. lead glance, zinc, blende iron, copper pyrites, red iron oxyd, *chromate of iron* in small quantities in talc rock on the south side of Benlaidh, in the farm of Sockoch, plumbago supplanting mica in mica-schist, and also found in talc schist, calc and felspar, and seldom heavy spar. Perfect crystals of these minerals are very rare.

Zoology.—There are no animals of peculiar rarity in the parish. It abounds in deer, roe, and hare, and all kinds of game. The deer forest of Black Mount, the greater part of which lies in Glenorchy, is supposed to contain from 2000 to 3000 red-deer. The fox is an inhabitant of the parish, despite of every effort made to destroy him, as is the pole-cat, martin and weasel, and wild-cat.

Various kinds of fish abound in all our lakes, especially in Lochawe, viz. salmon, different kinds of trout, some of which, in point of size, equal an ordinary-sized salmon, eel, char, now rather a scarce fish, perch and pike. The pike is only of recent importation; and it is greatly feared, that the character of the lake will suffer from the ravages of this active and voracious fish. The small lakes in the braes teem with the fish, though they are, generally speaking, of a small size.

Botany.—At a period, comparatively recent, the greater part of our moors and valleys, and the sides of our mountains, midway to their summits, were clothed with trees of various kinds. The braes of the parish, a district of great extent, and the valleys of the Urchay, the Strae and the Lochay, were clothed with a dense and magnificent forest, partly of oak, birch, ash, and alder, but chiefly of pine. Some scanty remains of these once mighty forests are still to be seen in different localities in the parish, viz. Cranich, Doiridarroch, Glenfuath, Correhorri, and Coirre Vicar. They were leased out, about a century ago, to an Irish company, who felled an immense quantity of timber, which they floated down the Urchay, when in flood, to the head of Loch Awe, where it was hewn into planks, and then floated down Loch Awe in rafts to the pass of Brander; whence it was carted down to the sea, and shipped at Bunawe. This, it is said, proved a bad speculation for all parties concerned. It sealed the fate of those noble forests which, for many years, were neglected, and which, consequently, hastened to premature decay. The stumps and roots of these once magnificent trees are now dug up by the mountain shepherd and forester, for the double purpose of supplying him with light and fuel. The quality of the timber was very superior. It was found, at the time of stripping Caolchurn castle, that is, after the lapse of three centuries, perfectly fresh and free of moth and rot. It was, in point of quality, equal to the best Baltic timber. The last remains of the pine-forest of Glenstrae was cut down thirty-five years ago, and employed in the erection of the parish church, the timber of which is exceedingly, and justly admired. Some of the trees were of an enormous size. Whilst the pine seems to have been the prevalent tree, the oak failed not to prefer his claim to sovereignty. There are some oak trunks, of enormous size, to be seen in our rivers and mosses. There is one below Achallader, which, till of late, when the river, which it spanned, shifted its channel, served for a bridge; and there are trunks of a prodigious

size, to be seen in the Auchay below the farm of Stronmil chain. Large oaks have been recently dug up in the close vicinity of the house of New Inverawe; and trunks of a very large size may, when the lake is low, be seen along the shores of Lochawe. Besides these valuable kinds of trees, our mountains and valleys were clothed, as they are partially still, with oak copice and birch, the aspen, the ash, and elm, and the ever-green holly. But these, generally speaking, are rapidly disappearing; and our mountains, and valleys, and straths have become comparatively naked and bare. The vale of the Urchay, though comparatively denuded of its ancient garniture, is, notwithstanding, well-wooded, both with natural and plantation timber; and every possible attention is paid thereto by its noble proprietor. The same remark applies with equal justice and propriety to the woods of Inverawe, Rookhill, and Inishdrynich.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The introduction of sheep constitutes an era of great importance in the history of this, as of almost every other Highland parish. It effected, everywhere in the Highlands, a complete revolution in the condition of the population. It snapped the tie which bound the occupant to the owner of the soil, and which began to be relaxed on the suppression of the Rebellion of 1745, which was attended with the complete prostration and extinction of the hopes long indulged by the majority of the Highland chiefs of the elevation of the House of Stewart to the throne of their ancestors, and thus greatly lowered the vassal in the estimation of his chief. The anticipated result followed. Vast tracts of our straths and valleys, of our moors and mountains, exchanged stock and occupants. The deer and the goat gave place to the sheep; and, in many instances, the intelligent, well-educated, well-descended, and hospitable Highland tacksman, with his attached devoted cottars and dependents, gave way to the plodding industrious low country store farmer and shepherd. One or other of three alternatives was adopted by the unfortunate mountaineer,—that of removing to some of the manufacturing towns of the south,—of emigrating to America,—or of contenting himself with a small patch of land, with the keep of a few cows, in some assigned locality in his native strath or valley.

Eminent Men.—Glenorchy gave birth, at a comparatively recent period, to two highly gifted and distinguished individuals, brothers, viz. the late Rev. Dr John Smith of Campbelton, and

Donald Smith, M. D. While both excelled in general scholarship, they were, at the same time, pre-eminant for the extent, intimacy, and correctness of their acquaintance with their own vernacular tongue, and its cognate branches. Dr John Smith was a distinguished and most successful preacher, as well as an able scholar and divine. He has placed his countrymen under a lasting debt of gratitude by the distinguished share he took in translating the Scriptures into Gaelic. His translation of the Prophecy of Isaiah will be held in admiration, as long as the language into which he rendered it endures, and as long as there is a Gaelic scholar found alive, who can appreciate its beauties. At the request of the Synod of Argyle, he published a revised and corrected version of the Psalms of David, which is deservedly held in high estimation for the simplicity and purity of its language, and the easy, graceful, and harmonious flow of its versification. It is that which is in general use in the counties of Perth and Argyle. He published several professional works of great merit: also an Agricultural Survey of the county of Argyle, drawn up at the request, and for the information, of the Board of Agriculture, which proves him to have been a man of great and varied talent and information. He was born at Croft Brackly, and died at Campbelton in the year 1807.

His brother was born at the same place in the year 1756, and died in Edinburgh in the year 1805.*

On the 20th of March 1724, the parish gave birth to one who holds a pre-eminant place amongst the Highland bards of modern times, Duncan M'Intyre, better known to his admiring countrymen by the distinctive appellation of Donacha bān nan ōran, or *fair-haired Duncan of the Lays*. He was born, on the farm of Druimliart, in the braes of the parish. His pa-

* The following tribute to the character of this good man and eminent scholar, from the pen of the Convener of the Committee of the Highland Society, viz. Mr Henry Mackenzie, the author of the *Man of Feeling*, in intimating the death of Dr Smith to that distinguished body, will satisfactorily show the high estimation in which he was held. "It is with infinite concern the Committee has to inform the society of the death of its excellent coadjutor, Dr D. Smith who died, after a very short illness, on the very day—22d May—when the last of his labours in its service, the concluding sheet of this appendix, issued from the press. The Committee has to sympathize with every lover of Celtic literature on the loss of a scholar and antiquarian, whose extent of knowledge, whose acuteness, and whose industry have seldom been equalled. Its acquaintance with him, on occasion of compiling this report, induces the Committee to add another praise, not less great, nor less honourable, though of less general concern, in its severe regrets for the loss of those many virtues and estimable qualities (not less estimable for the simple and unassuming manners that accompanied them,) which Dr Smith possessed as a man."

rents were in very humble circumstances. This fact, coupled with the great distance of their place of residence from the parish school, accounts for his utter ignorance of letters. He passed his early youth in agricultural and pastoral pursuits. Fowling and fishing, sports in which he excelled, challenged no inconsiderable portion of his time. It is clear, from his own writings, that he worked as a common farm-servant, and, according to his own account, he excelled in this capacity. He bore arms in the year 1745 in the Argyle Militia. He was ardently attached to the cause and fortunes of the chivalrous and unfortunate Prince Charles Edward,—and a staunch supporter of the principle of legitimacy. He was present and fought at the battle of Falkirk, of which he has given a graphic and somewhat humorous account, and in which he, like some other sons of song, left his sword and shield behind him. His poem on occasion of this battle is said to have been his first essay at poetry. On the suppression of the Rebellion, and consequent reduction of the corps in which he served, he returned to his native parish, and resumed the more congenial pursuits of the arts of peace. At that time, as now, a wide range of country, including a considerable part of Glenurchy, and of Glenurchy in the parish of Killin, were under deer. Our poet became one of the sub-foresters. While thus employed, he produced the noblest fruits of his genius,—his immortal songs of Beindourain, Coïrecheathaich, and Mairi bhān òg. He afterwards served in the Breadalbane Fencibles from the year 1793 to the period of its reduction in the year 1799. He attained to the great age of eighty-nine years. His remains lie interred, without any memorial, in the Canongate church-yard. He died in Edinburgh in the year 1812.

Land-owners.—The Marquis of Breadalbane is sole proprietor of the parish of Glenurchy. The parish of Inishail is divided among six proprietors, viz. the Duke of Argyle; Campbell of Monzie, as proprietor of Inverawe; Campbell of Lochnell; Campbell of Rockhill; Campbell of New Inverawe; and MacAlister of Inehdrynich.

Parochial Registers.—There are two registers kept in the parish, one in each division, in which the births and marriages, the distribution of the poor's fund, and cases of discipline are recorded. The oldest is a fragment of the register of baptisms, which has been embodied in that which constitutes the first volume of the Glenurchy register. The earliest entry is dated 1753. On the admission of

Dr M'Intyre in the year 1765, a suitable volume was provided, in which he recorded every parochial event and occurrence which he deemed of any importance. The volume, however, has not been kept in the best preservation, nor does it furnish a very correct record of baptisms and marriages. It is, notwithstanding, from the circumstance already stated, an interesting volume. The record of Inishail parish dates from the settlement of Dr M'Intyre.

The kirk-session of Muckairn were, from time immemorial, till of late, in the habit of exercising a pastoral superintendence over a district of the parish of Inishail, in the neighbourhood of that church and parish, and to which it was annexed *quoad sacra*, during the time of the Commonwealth. All the births, and marriages, and cases of discipline, that occurred in that district were inserted in the register of Muckairn, as they are still, and its poor were admitted to a participation in the funds at the regular distribution, on the same footing with the poor of the parish.

Antiquities.—Besides the castles already described, viz. Caolchurn and Traochheil-lein, there are several others in the parish. Achallader Castle is situate in the braes of the parish of Glenurchy, and was built either by Sir Colin Campbell of the Castles, as he is designated, and first Laird of Glenurchy of that name, or by his son, Black Sir Duncan of the Cowl. Sir Colin is said to have built no fewer than seven castles, viz. Taymouth, Finlarig, Edinample, and Lochdochard, in the county of Perth, and Caolchurn, Benculdine, and Achallader, in the county of Argyle.

The exact period of its erection is not known. Its object is obvious,—that of preventing the raids and forays of the Lochaber clans. It served at the same time as a hunting-lodge, when the Noble owner chose to enjoy the pleasures of the chase in the adjacent forests of Bendourain, Corichbaa, and Glenceitlein. On the slope of a hill in the neighbourhood, several cairns, now partly overgrown with heath and moss, indicate the spot where a bloody conflict was fought, of which some tradition still survives.

On a height overhanging the water of Teatle, on the farm of Duchoille, may be seen the ruins of an old fort or castle. Tradition does not indicate either the object or period of its erection. It was built of dry stone, and resembles those old ruins so frequent in the Western Isles, which are called Danish forts. Another, apparently of the same description, stood on the farm of Barchasttallain, a little to the westward of the inn of Dalmally. A different origin, however, has been ascribed it.

No mean antiquary, the late Dr Donald Smith, claimed for this ruin a very remote antiquity. He considered it one of the residences or castles of the Fingalians. The tradition of the country agrees in ascribing the same antiquity to it. On the farm of Castles, stood another of these buildings, — to which circumstance the name of the farm may be, with the most absolute certainty, attributed. Not a vestige of it now remains. There are other localities in the parish which are called *duns*, on which it is alleged forts or castles stood, of old. One of these, *Dunathach*, stood on a height, commanding one of the best views of Loch Awe and Glenorchy, about two miles west of the inn of Dalmally, and where the traveller, journeying to Inverary, obtains the first view of that noble sheet of water. There are two places pointed out in Stronmilchain, where M^cGregor of Glenstrae had his residence. One of them stood on the slope of the hill above Tullich; the other, which was built of *wattles*, and said to have been surrounded by a moat, and accessible only by a draw-bridge, was situate close to the White House in Stronmilchain. The only other ruin of this kind in the parish, of which we shall take notice, is one situate in an island in the Loch of Balimore, parish of Inishail. It was the refuge and sanctuary, in times of danger, of the proprietor, Baron M^cCorquindale. It was of very paltry dimensions.

There are neither crosses nor obelisks in either parish, with the exception of a large stone standing in a moss close by the Lorn Furnace Manager's house. The only religious house, so far as has been ascertained, that existed in former times in the parish, was the nunnery of Inishail, the ruins of which are still distinctly visible. The former Report says in reference to it, "there is little on record, and tradition conveys but little information concerning this house." It was a house of nuns, memorable for the sanctity of their lives and the purity of their manners. At the Reformation, when the innocent were involved equally with the guilty in the sufferings of the times, this house was suppressed and the temporalities granted to Hay, Abbot of Inchaffray, who, abjuring his former tenets, embraced the cause of the Reformation. Separated from the mainland by a very narrow channel, a little to the eastward of the house of Rockhill, and forming part of that farm, lies a small but well-wooded island, called the Priest's Isle. It is beautifully wooded, and in the centre embowered in trees, and, surrounded by a dry stone wall of considerable thick-

ness, stand the remains of the priest's humble dwelling. It was a thatched house and built with dry stone. It is said to have been afterwards occupied for some time by the proprietor. It is a sweet secluded and romantic spot, fit place for the exercise of meditation and prayer.

A green spot near the top of Creaggan Chaorach, is pointed out as a place where once stood a chapel or oratory. No remains of it are to be seen. Tradition alleges, that a bold attempt was once made to throw a bridge across Lochawe, a little to the north of Cladich. On the south side of the lake, on the farm of Barandryan, huge blocks of stone may, in a clear and calm day, be traced into the lake to a considerable distance, placed, it is said, at regular distances. These stones and cairns, the foundation on which the intended bridge was to have rested, constitute the sole remains and monument of this formidable undertaking. These remains are called the Druid's bridge.

A cairn of stones was opened, some years ago, on the farm of Stranmilchan, in which was found a stone coffin containing an urn.

Modern Buildings.—The modern buildings in the parish of Glenurchy are the church and manse, the mill and kiln; and in Inishail parish, the family mansions of Rockhill, Inishdrynich, and New Inverawe.

III.—POPULATION.

The census taken by Dr Webster in 1755, and by Dr M'Intyre forty years later, differ exceedingly little, if the former, like the latter, excluded the district of Ichrachan from his census, there is only a difference of 60 between them.

A great and rapid decrease has, however, taken place since. This decrease is mainly attributable to the introduction of sheep, and the absorption of small into large tenements. The aboriginal population of the parish of Glenurchy (not of Inishail) has been nearly supplanted by adventurers from the neighbouring district of Breadalbane, who now occupy the far largest share of the parish. There are a few, and only a few shoots, from the stems that supplied the ancient population. Some clans, who were rather numerous and powerful, have disappeared altogether; others, viz. the Downies, M'Nabs, M'Nicols, and Fletchers, have nearly ceased to exist. The M'Gregors, at one time lords of the soil, have totally disappeared; not one of the name is to be found among the population. The M'Intyres, at one time extremely numerous, are likewise greatly reduced.

Gaelic is almost universally spoken; the English is unquestionably gaining ground.

The people are decidedly cleanly in their habits. Their cottages, although superior to those occupied by their forefathers, certainly are not, in most instances, favourable to habits of cleanliness.

They are a people of a superior intellectual cast, — acute, shrewd, and intelligent. They may also be considered a moral people.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

It is believed that very few acres, in the parish, indeed, could be reclaimed with a profitable application of capital.

Live-Stock. — Black-faced are the only sheep reared by our graziers. A few Cheviots, Leicesters, and, in one instance, a small parcel of South Downs, may be seen in the policies of some of our proprietors. Every attention is paid to the cultivation or improvement of sheep stock. The graziers are an intelligent class of men, and grudge no outlay in improving their stocks.

The Argyleshire is the most common breed of cattle. There is only one fold of Ayrshire cows in the parish, although a few of them are to be seen in every direction. Highland cattle are found to pay better. Young cattle pay better than butter and cheese.

The river Urchay, which, by overflowing its banks when in flood, was wont to do a great deal of damage, is in course of being embanked for a space of two miles at least. This embankment, which is nearly finished, has done a great deal of good. The only place where irrigation is resorted to, is at Bunawe, and by the Lorn Furnace Company. This is not, in any proper sense of the term, an agricultural country; and it is found that capital thus laid out gives but a poor return. The bed of the river Awe, where it flows out from the lake, was considerably lowered, and an immense mass of stones, the accumulation of centuries, was removed, allowing the water to escape with greater rapidity. This drainage has done a great deal of good in different places along both sides of the lake, but more especially to the low grounds along the banks of the Urchay. The Urchay is in the course of being embanked almost exclusively at the expense of the Noble proprietor, the tenants, by whom it is executed, being allowed a certain rate of wages, when thus employed.

Leases, for some years back, have seldom exceeded nine years' duration. The superior class of tenants are generally comforta-

bly lodged, their dwellings being, for the most part, built with stone and lime, and slated. Their offices, generally speaking, are of an inferior description, being for the most part built with dry stone, and thatched either with straw, fern, or rushes. There is a deficiency of enclosures. A great deal, however, in this way has been done of late throughout the parish, particular countenance being given to this species of improvement by the Noble proprietor of Glenurchy.

Several important improvements have taken place in the parish since the former Statistical Report was drawn up. It was subsequent to that period, that the present church, manse, and schoolhouse, mill and kiln, were erected. Since then, the inn of Dalmally has been considerably enlarged. A very comfortable and respectably-kept inn has been built at Cladich, and another on the south side of the ferry of Portsonachan. The whole of these places of entertainment are provided with excellent accommodations, and kept, it is believed, in a manner highly satisfactory to the public. Our high roads, of which there are several lines, are maintained in an excellent state of repair. Facilities for travelling have greatly multiplied. Conveyances of every description, from the seated cart to the gay and dashing barouche, and post-horses are kept at all our inns, more especially at Dalmally.

Fisheries.— Salmon and trout are the only fishings. They yield about L.300 Sterling per annum.

Produce.—

Produce of grain of all kinds, probably	L.2350	0	0
potatoes and turnips,	2000	0	0
fisheries, river and lake,	300	0	0
Total,	L.4650	0	0

-It is impossible to ascertain the return from cattle and sheep; but it must be great.

Manufactures.—The only branch of manufacture in the parish is a pig-iron manufactory at Bunawe. It gives employment, at some seasons of the year, to near 600 hands.

There is an agricultural Association in the parish of Glenurchy, and confined to it exclusively. It is only of very recent origin, but its benefits are already felt.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Ecclesiastical State.—A better locality could not in any respect have been chosen for the parish church of Glenurchy, than the spot on which it stands. It is in the centre of the population. This church was built in the year 1811, after a design by James

Elliot of Edinburgh, and executed by Allan Johnstone, architect of Taymouth Castle. It is exceedingly admired, and constitutes one of the most interesting features in a landscape, not surpassed in beauty and loveliness by any in the Highlands. It is kept in excellent repair. The church of Inishail is a paltry building, erected about seventy years ago. It is, all things considered, set down in as suitable a place as could have been selected, yet it is, notwithstanding, both distant and difficult of access to a large body of the parishioners. Lochawe, which intervenes, constitutes a serious obstacle to their attendance on public worship.

Several benefactions, though small in amount, have been made at several periods to the parish of Glenurchy, none to the parish of Inishail. The largest of these was a sum of L. 100, bequeathed by Colin Campbell of Carwhin, great grand-uncle to the present Marquis of Breadalbane. The benefit is limited to the widows of tacksmen in reduced circumstances. This bequest, together with a sum of equal amount, made up of several small benefactions, left by several individuals, whose names are recorded in the session records, is placed in the hands of the Marquis of Breadalbane, for which he gives a handsome interest. The number of sittings in both churches inclusive, amounts to 750, (Glenurchy church 500, Inishail 250.) All the sittings are free. The manse was built in 1805. It underwent some repairs, and had some additions made to it about twelve years ago. Glebe, extent 22 acres, value L. 22. There is, besides, summer keep allowed for eight cows, being a servitude of two cows on each of four farms in the neighbourhood. An equivalent in pasture is given in one locality, in consequence of a private arrangement entered into with the proprietor. This enhances the value of the glebe L. 10 more. To the incumbent the value of both may be equal to about L. 40 a year.

The stipend is twelve chalders meal, and L. 26 Sterling yearly teind. The teinds are all exhausted.

There is what was a Chapel of Ease, until the Assembly Chapel Act was passed, giving the Chapels of Ease the status of *quoad sacra* parishes. It is one of the two places of worship in the *quoad sacra* parish of Strathfillan. This chapel is situated in the braes of the parish. Public worship is celebrated here every third Sabbath, the public ministrations of the clergymen being confined on the other two to the more populous district of Strathfillan. The two churches are placed six miles from each other. This parish,

originally a mission, was endowed by the good Lady Glenurchy. The stipend is L. 60, including, it is believed, allowance for communion elements. Whilst the manse and manse offices, and church of Strathfillan are upheld by the Society in Scotland for Promoting Religious Knowledge, in whom the patronage is vested, the church at the bridge of Urchay is upheld by the Marquis of Breadalbane, who has provided the minister with a good glebe and pasture for four or five milk cows, and a horse and some sheep.

Education.—Number of schools, 6; parochial 3, endowed 6, upheld by Societies 2. Glenurchy school salary, 400 merks, Inishail, 600 merks, equally divided between the two schoolmasters. Bunawe school, salary L. 16, lately withdrawn. Sewing school, Glenurchy, L. 8. Average amount of school-fees in all the schools, exclusive of sewing school, from L. 10 to L. 12.

There are few under fifty or sixty years of age in the parish who cannot read. There is not a Latin scholar in Glenurchy school, where some twenty years ago there used to be a goodly number. The Glenurchy school ranked very high for a long period of time, for the amount of its attendance, and the success with which it was taught. It was resorted to from all the surrounding districts, and could boast of scholars from the south, and even the West Indies. It sent forth scholars who rose to distinction in several professions,—for instance the Smiths, of whom mention has already been made, and the late General Sir Alexander Campbell of Achallader, some time Governor of Madras.

Literature.—There is one parochial library in Glenurchy parish, containing from 200 to 300 volumes. There is a small collection of books attached to the Sabbath school, presented by the Marchioness of Breadalbane, who has been pleased to take it under her patronage.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number who receive parochial aid is 32; average annual allowance, about L. 2, 10s. Annual donation by the Marquis of Breadalbane, L. 40; value of clothes distributed by the Marchioness of Breadalbane, L. 7; gratuities given by the Marquis of Breadalbane, at an average for three last years paid through kirk-session, L. 8; paid through other channels, L. 6; church collections last three years' average, L. 13; proclamation and mortcloth dues, average for the same period, L. 1, 8s.; total, L. 75, 8s. Nine individuals are in the receipt of pensions from the Marquis of Breadalbane, who would require, if not thus

provided for, parochial relief, the average rate of pensions being L.4, 10s. each; sum total, L.115, 8s.

In the parish of Inishail the funds are wholly dependent on church collections and proclamation dues. The number of paupers, average 8; total amount expended on them, L.7.

Fairs.—There are two, St Andrews and St Connan. The former holds on the fourth Tuesday of November; the latter on the third Wednesday of March.

Inns.—There are inns, and two small dram-houses in the parish.

Fuel.—Turf or peat is almost universally used.

August 1843.