

## MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Among the many improvements which have taken place since the last Statistical Account was drawn up,—the great accession made to the cultivated land,—the appropriation of unproductive wastes to valuable plantations, and the increased attention paid to draining, are deserving of high commendation. In consequence of the recent deepening and widening of the Leven water-course, the circumjacent soil has been rendered far less succulent, and more susceptible of melioration. Similar beneficial alterations are in progress on a part of the Lochty. Although there is no savings' bank in the parish, yet some individuals with laudable prudence and propriety, deposit a portion of their earnings in some of those excellent institutions which happily exist in the vicinity.

June 1836.

## PARISH OF DUNBOG.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. ADAM CAIRNS, D. D. MINISTER.

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name of the parish is variously written in the ancient records as Dinbug, Denbug, Dunbog, Dunbolg, and Dunboig. It is evidently of Celtic derivation, and may be translated "*the bog of the hill.*" Like all Celtic names, it is descriptive of the general character of the district. Within the memory of man, the low-lying part of the parish was an extensive marsh, which ran along the base of the highest hill in the north of Fife, anciently denominated Dunmore, or the great hill, though now known by the Saxon name Norman's Law. The Gaelic appellation, however, is still given to the property to which the mountain belongs, and from this we infer that *Dunbog* is the original and correct name of the parish.

*Extent, Boundaries.*—The parish of Dunbog is of irregular figure and diminutive extent. It ranges from south-east to north-west, its greatest length not exceeding 4 miles; its extreme breadth being about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , and its least not more, perhaps,

than half a mile. On the north it is bounded by the parish of Flisk; on the east by a section of Abdie; on the south by Monimail; and on the west by Abdie.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The parish consists of two ridges or prolongations of two chains of hills that intersect this portion of Fife; and of the valley enclosed between them. The northern ridge is a continuation of Norman's-law. It is cultivated to the top, and produces every description of grain of excellent quality. From the farm-house of Higham, which is perched on the summit, it descends precipitously to the level carse land that borders the Tay from Newburgh to Birkhill, and which is generally known by the name of the Barony. A narrow stripe of Dunbog parish reaches the banks of the river, to the westward of Balinbriech Castle, and is called Higham *Plouts*. From any point of this northern elevation, the prospect that meets the view is of equal grandeur and beauty. The eye from this commanding position takes in a vast extent of country, diversified with all the features of the most interesting scenery, on a scale of unusual magnitude. The rugged Grampians fill up the horizon to the north, towering above the intervening range of the Sidlaws, which form the southern boundary of Strathmore. To the westward, the eye follows the windings of the Tay, till it is lost behind a projecting shoulder of the hill of Kinnoul, and surveys almost with the same glance the valley of the Earn intersected by its shining river. Opposite, is spread out the Carse of Gowrie, smooth and level as a floor, and confessedly one of the most fertile districts of Great Britain; and to the east appears the flourishing town of Dundee, and the Tay, now increased to an estuary, mingling its waters with those of the German Ocean.

The southern ridge, again, is, at least in the parish of Dunbog, of greater altitude than the one to the north. Generally speaking, it is uncultivated and almost barren. Patches of it have indeed, of late years, been brought under tillage by the use of bone manure; but improvement in this way seems to be carried as far as nature will allow; the prevailing character of the hill being rocky and sterile. The greatest, and perhaps the only, improvement of which these dreary heights are susceptible, is that which would be accomplished by planting them with wood; and it is impossible not to regret, and that deeply, that this very obvious and simple improvement had not been attended to long ago. The valley included between these hills is composed of excellent soil, pro-

ducing abundant crops of wheat, barley, oats. What was formerly a noxious morass is now good and valuable land. The exact elevation of the hills above the level of the sea has not been ascertained with perfect accuracy, but the extreme height is computed to be about 500 feet.

The climate is mild and salubrious, and no better proof of this can be adduced than the robust health of the inhabitants, and the great old age to which many of them attain.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The hills and the basin that lies between them are composed of whinstone or trap rock. The dip of such parts as have been exposed to view is nearly vertical. On the very summit of the hill, rolled blocks of granite are met with, some of them of considerable size. In the valley, the whinstone is covered by a rich black mould of no great depth, and through which the rock pierces in numerous places, forming barren spots, or *snobs*, in the midst of the best fields. The greatest portion of the soil in the parish is of this sort, resting immediately on the rock, or on a bed of gravel interposed. We have indeed a few fields of a clayey texture, and towards the east the soil becomes of much sharper quality, though equally productive. From the nature of the subsoil, the ground is easily drained, and is therefore dry and early. A considerable part of the arable ground consists of the reclaimed bog. This great improvement was effected about thirty years ago by the united contributions of the proprietors through whose domains it ran. Previous to the execution of this measure, an extensive tract of ground was covered with brushwood, with large stagnant pools of bog water; and in the more favourable spaces, with a coarse and rank grass, which afforded a scanty nourishment to the few half-starved cattle that waded about in search of subsistence. It is now converted into fruitful corn-fields. The soil, however, is soft or mossy, and not well qualified for growing wheat. The subsoil is various. In some places, it is cold clay, in others a hard till, but generally it is composed of sand and gravel. In this mossy soil, there are still found pieces of oak trees, black as ebony, but otherwise in a state of excellent preservation, and which must in all probability have lain there for many centuries.

*Zoology.*—There is nothing remarkable in the zoology of this parish. It may perhaps be worthy of notice that a pair of starlings built their nest and brought out their young last summer in the shrubbery of Dunbog House. The young birds were taken from the nest, when nearly fledged, and are still alive in the neighbour-

hood, amusing their captors with their mimic song. A few years ago, a fine specimen of the *Strix flammea*, or white owl, was caught in this vicinity, and is now stuffed and in possession of the author. It is so very rare in this quarter, that no person could give it a name, or say they had ever seen such a bird before. The specimen, however, though full-grown, is evidently a young bird; and we have no doubt that the white owl, which is very common in many parts of England, and not by any means a stranger in Scotland, had bred in the woods both of Dunbog and Ayton, when there was more shelter for it than there is now. A few roe-deer frequent the hills and plantations, and are known to breed here; but they are so destructive to the young corns that they will not be permitted to increase to any extent. Besides these, we have the usual sorts of game, but not in such abundance as to hurt the interests of the farmer.

*Botany.*—There is very little wood in the parish. Did it possess the benefit of a resident proprietor, this glaring defect would speedily be remedied. The greater portion of the parish belongs to Lord Dundas, who has of course little personal interest in ornamental improvement. But it is impossible to look on the naked hills, overrun with gorse and bracken, without indulging a wish to see them clothed and beautified with forest trees. In their present state, they are comparatively worthless, but were they covered with wood, they would not only become of much greater value to the proprietors in the course of a few years, but they would afford shelter both to the flocks and subjacent fields, and sensibly ameliorate the climate. At no distant period, the valley of Dunbog was pretty well wooded; but now little remains except within the pleasure ground of the old mansion-house. Even there, the trees are rapidly decaying, and a few years more will witness their total disappearance. The kinds that seem to thrive best are the plane, the ash, and the elm.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The only historical notice of this parish that we are acquainted with, is contained in Sibbald's History of Fife, first published in 1682. In a book entitled "*Reliquiæ Divi Andree*," by Martine of Clermont, who appears to have been secretary to Archbishop Sharpe, there are allusions to persons and places in the parish, which are of some use in illustrating its condition at that distant time.

*Family of Barclay of Collairney.*—The most ancient and honourable name connected with the history of Dunbog is that of the family of Barclay, who seem to have been proprietors

of Collairney for many ages—it is presumed, for not less a period than 500 years. We find in a list of the Lords of the Regalities within Fife in the reign of Charles II., that Barclay of Collairney was heritable bailie of the regality of Lindores, while the other jurisdictions were in the hands of the Marquis of Tweeddale, Lords Balmerino and Anstruther, and Sir Thomas Hope of Craighall. The possession of this office implied the existence of great personal influence or high rank, while it conferred civil authority of the most varied and extensive description. This once powerful family is now extinct; their name is scarcely known. About forty years ago, the estate was purchased from the last of the Barclays, by the late Dr Francis Balfour of Fernie, whose son inherits it at the present moment. The Castle of Collairney is now in ruins, though enough remains to attest its original magnitude. In the only tower that has survived the wreck of time, and the despoiling hand of modern improvement, there are two small rooms, the roofs of which are divided into numerous compartments, in which are painted in vivid colours the armorial bearings of the old chivalry of Scotland. The mottos as well as the devices of a few are yet distinctly legible. But it cannot be expected that they will remain long uneffaced, as no sufficient care can be now taken to preserve them from perishing. In the appendix to Sibbald's history, there is a list of those natives of Fife who had risen to distinction in literature or science. Among others he mentions "the famous William Barclay, (father of John,) Professor of the Laws at Angiers, who derives his pedigree from Barclay of Collairney in this shire."

*Estate of Dunbog.*—The next place of consequence in the parish is the estate and mansion-house of Dunbog. This property formed in remote times a part of the extensive barony of Balinbriech, which belonged to the family of Rothes. It subsequently passed into the hands of Lord Home. In the reign of James IV., Alexander Lord Home sold it to David Bethune of Criech, in whose family it remained till 1658, when it was sold to James Bethune of Balfour, an elder branch of the same house. After passing through several other hands, it was purchased in 1694 by Major Henry Balfour of Starr, who forfeited in the Rebellion of 1715. It was restored, however, to his son, and finally disposed of in 1766, to Sir Lawrence Dundas, to whose descendant Lord Dundas it now belongs, and again forms a part of the barony of Balinbriech. The vulgar tradition of the country as-

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signs the building of the house to Cardinal Bethune of St Andrews. There is every reason to believe that it was erected by a Bethune of Balfour, of which house the celebrated Cardinal was a member. But as a decided proof that neither the Cardinal nor his uncle David Bethune, his predecessor in the archbishoprick, and who was also a son of one of the lairds of Balfour, had any thing to do with the erection of the mansion-house of Dunbog, it is sufficient to state, that the Cardinal was put to death in 1546, nearly a century before this property came into the possession of his family. Long before the time of which we now speak, the monks of the abbacy of Balmerino had a small building or preceptory on the site of the present house of Dunbog. It was called the preceptory of Gadvan, tenanted in general by two or three of the brotherhood, whose chief occupation we presume to have been the culture of some 24 acres of ground attached to their cell. A small portion of this land is comprehended in the glebe—but it is principally laid out in the garden and enclosures of Dunbog. Sibbald mentions also, that the parish church of Dunbog was given by Alexander Cumin Earl of Buchan, to the abbacy of Aberbrothock, in the reign of King Alexander II. There was a considerable village here, in which a weekly market was held within the memory of man. But it has totally vanished before the rapid extension of the farming system.

The parish is divided among three proprietors,—Lord Dundas, Balfour of Fernie, and Joseph Francis Murray of Ayton.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial registers extend no farther back than the year 1666. The first entry is dated September 23d of that year. From that period they have been kept with tolerable accuracy. The records are not very full, but they are sometimes interesting, as illustrative of the manners of a former age, of the comprehensive charity and national usefulness of the Established Church. It is impossible to glance over them without a feeling of surprise, at the frequency and largeness of parochial contributions to a great variety of benevolent purposes. Not satisfied with the comfortable maintenance of their own poor,—with relieving every unfortunate person that applied to them for a little aid,—with paying their proportion of the expense incurred by the education and support of the presbytery bursar,—we find the session sending collections to the most distant parts of Scotland, to assist in repairing the damage occasioned by fire,) at that time a very frequent disaster,) in alleviating the misery of the victims of such calamities,—in building or improving harbours, bridges, and public

works of a like nature,—and in ransoming those of our countrymen who had been carried into a terrible slavery by the Sallee rovers or Turkish corsairs. Towards the close of the seventeenth century we find such entries as the following: “Given out to ane indigent gentleman 6 B. Given to ane dumb man 4 B. Given to ane poor sojer 1 B. A collection for ane Pollonian minister 4 B. Given to a ship-broken man 4 B. To ane indigent gentlewoman 10 B. To a deposed minister’s wife 6 B. To a distressed minister L. 1, 8s. To ane Episcopal minister called James Spark, who came from Ireland, 12 B. To Mr John Constantine, a Neapolitan and Capuchin friar, who had renounced Poperie, as he said, 12 B. To a suppliant John Lauder, 12 B, having lost 25,000 merks in ane ship coming from France to Greenock.” Of another sort, we have such entries as these: “1671. Given to John Rule and John Cunninham, two men that had their houses burnt at Sligo, 12 sh. 1675, December 25, a voluntary contribution for rebuilding of the town of Kelso, which was burnt down.” Some years after a collection is made to assist in rebuilding Newburgh, which had been burnt down. The instances of relief granted to individual sufferers by fire are almost without number. Of a class still more interesting, we may venture to give a few specimens. “In 1678, February 10, the minister did intimate a voluntar contribution this day eight days for the relief of some Montrose seamen taken by the Turks.” Again, October 3d, 1680, “There was two acts read for a voluntar contribution, the one in favour of John Atchison, skipper in Pittenweem, his mate, Alexander Black, ten mariners and two passengers, taken by Turkish men of war, and carried up to Sallee and there ever since slaves. The other in favour of Robert Angus, skipper in Burntisland, who was taken by a Turkish man of war belonging to Algiers and was kept as a slave since.”—The Barbary corsairs seem to have been the terror and scourge of British sailors in the seventeenth century. A few years in advance we fall on the traces of a new enemy. “1707, July 20, Given to George Hamilton, a man taken by the French pirates, and retaken by the Dutch, and who had five children, 10sh.” Again “November 30, this day there was given to James Forbes and his wife, in their distress, they being robbed by the French pirates, 12 B.” But it is curious and instructive to remark how effectually the church was made to promote the general interests of the country. For example, in 1677, September 16, the minister “read an order of the privy-council, for a contribution this day eight days, for help-

ing the harbour of Eyemouth." Again, in 1682, "A voluntary contribution is ordered for building a stone bridge over the water of Ness, at Inverness." And again in the same year, we find three acts of the privy-council quoted, ordering collections in favour of "the harbour at Burntisland, to repair it; in favour of Dumbarton, to erect a bridge across the water of Leven; and in favour of my Lord Pitsligo, for repairing the harbour at ———." There are many more of the same kind; but the above will amply suffice to shew the many practical benefits the church has been the instrument of conferring on almost every town and sea-port of our native land. It was the practice in the seventeenth century for parties intending to be married, to enter into a public contract, and to deposit with the kirk-session a sum of money in pledge of their sincerity and good behaviour. The form observed is recorded with amusing simplicity. As, for instance, "Contracted George Brewhouse and Helen Kinloch, and consigned their pledges according to order, that they should marry within the space of forty days, and carry themselves civillee till their marriage." It did happen occasionally that the pledges were forfeited for lack of the requisite civility, and sometimes too for other reasons, as, for instance, on the 28th of February 1675, there is given to the bursar "be Andro Law, 4 lbs. being his daughter's pledge, which was given because of her fail in not taking of William Buist in marriage, after being thrice proclaimed." The oldest register is full of proclamations, read by order of the King and Council, which forcibly mark the unquiet aspect of the times, and the growing jealousy of the government, as the eventful era of the Revolution approached. We shall conclude this branch of our account, by extracting an entry of a peculiar interest: "1678, May 18, a proclamation was read from the pulpit by the minister, ordaining the whole heritors within the parish to cause their tenants, cottars, servants, and all others on their grounds to compear at Cupar on Friday the 23d of May instant, to clear and vindicate themselves from the late murder of my Lord Archbishop of St Andrews."

### III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish has gradually but regularly declined since the end of the last century. At that time the population was nearly 400. By the census of 1831, it amounted to no more than 195, and this year it has been reduced to 170 of all ages, which we sincerely hope will prove its minimum. This rapid decrease is to be attributed to the extinction of the village; and

the absorption of the small farms. There is now only one farm where formerly there were three or four. That the depopulating system has been carried much too far is now painfully evident to every one connected with agriculture. The farmers not only experience a difficulty in procuring labourers to work the green crop, but they find it impossible to get them at any price, and must have recourse to some unusual means of obtaining an adequate supply. The average number of births since my induction does not exceed 8 per annum; of marriages not more than 4; of deaths about the same number.

Number of persons under 15 years of age,	67
between 15 and 30,	25
30 and 50,	55
50 and 70,	12
upwards of 70,	11
	<hr/>
	170

There are no heritors or families of independent fortune resident in the parish. There are 42 families altogether.

There are 42 inhabited houses, besides 4 bothies.

*Habits and Character of the People.*—The farmers are an enlightened, active, and enterprising body of men, who embrace every opportunity of extending their knowledge of the important subjects connected with the cultivation of the soil, and eagerly adopt every suggestion that may conduce to the improvement of the rapidly advancing science of husbandry. Perhaps no class of men is more free from prejudices,—more unaffectedly kind,—more sound and steady in their principles,—and full of solid and useful information, than that of the farmers of Fifeshire. Besides these, the only other class of people belonging to this parish is that of their dependents or ploughmen. Speaking generally, we would say of the married ploughmen, that they are a quiet, sober, and industrious race. Their lot is one of incessant toil, alleviated by few advantages. Their ordinary food consists of oatmeal and sweet milk, with potatoes and occasionally pork. While young they enjoy uninterrupted health, and exhibit in their form all the appearances of robust and sinewy vigour. But long before old age has arrived, most of them, from perpetual exposure to the weather, are crippled with violent rheumatism. But no class of men, we are persuaded, labours under more blighting evils than does that of our ploughmen. Their education, both religious and intellectual, is exceedingly neglected from their earliest youth. There may be

found a few bright exceptions to the prevailing character of the body; but it is a melancholy truth that this interesting race of our people has been allowed to sink into a state of great ignorance and debasement. One chief cause of this calamity, we do not hesitate to say, is the practice universal in Fife, of making the young unmarried men live together in bothies. No sooner are boys capable of attending cattle in the fields, than they are sent from their father's house,—consigned to these wretched bothies,—and left in the midst of dangers to their own will. The results are grievous, though not more so than might be anticipated. In these hovels the wicked very speedily corrupt the good. The old ensnare the young; and the hardened profligate leaves no effort untried to seduce the scrupulous and timid to imitate his reckless example. Until this horrid system be abolished, it will be in vain to expect any happy alteration in the character and condition of our ploughmen. Another grand cause of this flagrant evil is to be found in the fluctuating and wandering lives of the ploughmen themselves. The married men frequently, the unmarried always, *flit* at the end of one year's service. They thus acquire vagrant habits and uncontrollable minds. They are never long enough in one place to form useful connections,—to feel themselves influenced and benefited by the exertions of the minister,—or to receive any sufficient advantage to their children from the care and superintendence of a parochial teacher. They thus virtually cut themselves off from all the blessings of Christianity and civilization, and in a land of light are literally roaming about in darkness. That an evil so virulent and so widely diffused as this can be soon or easily remedied, is not to be believed. But were the masters and clergy to unite in a zealous endeavour to reclaim to better habits the labouring class of our people, they would, we have no doubt, do much good even to the present generation; and, at all events, they would commence a work of improvement, which another and a more fortunate age would carry on and complete.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—There are in the parish about 1820 acres imperial of arable land; about 270 of hill pasture or waste ground; and about 30 under wood. The average rent of the arable land is about L. 2 per acre; but this varies in the majority of cases with the price of grain, as a considerable proportion of the rental is determined by the fiars of the county. The wages of unmarried ploughmen are L. 11 per annum and their board. Married men

receive in money L. 9, a house, a bit of garden-ground, milk and meal, 9 bolls of potatoes, and their coals driven from the pit.

*Sheep and Cattle.*—There is no particular species of sheep or cattle reared in the parish. The tenants buy in sheep, in the autumn, to put on the stubbles, and to feed off on turnip during the winter and following spring. The sheep are generally Cheviots, with a sprinkling of black-faced. This practice is universal, and is now carried to a great extent. By the use of bone-dust, turnips can now be raised, where previously cultivation was either very difficult or altogether impossible. But where turnips can be thus raised, the eating them off with sheep thoroughly enriches the soil, and secures invariably an abundant after-crop. The cattle are very much mixed; so much, indeed, that it would be no easy matter to say what breed predominates. For many years, the old Falkland breed of cattle fell into general disrepute. Short-horns were introduced; and in several instances, were and are still raised in high perfection. The opinion was, that they fattened more easily than the native cattle, and at an earlier age, and therefore were a profitable stock to the farmer. This opinion, however, is beginning to be questioned. It is now thought by many that the old Fife breed have as many good qualities as the short-horns, and are a much less hazardous stock. That they feed to as great a weight as the short-horns after they are five years old is well known; and eminent judges say, that, by proper attention and care, they may be brought to fatten at as early an age. There is, however, great difficulty experienced in obtaining pure blood.

The state of husbandry is very good, as good as any where in Scotland. A six-shift rotation is pursued in this neighbourhood, viz. summer fallow or potatoes, wheat, green crop, barley, grass, and then oats. The great defect is the want of fences. The fields are all open and unenclosed. This is a serious hinderance in the way of improvement. The land requires rest, for it has been over-cropped; the farmer is most anxious to reap the advantages promised by sheep husbandry; but neither of these objects can be attained until the land is properly enclosed.

The leases universally extend to a period of nineteen years; and under the system of farming which has prevailed up to the present time, a term of such duration was equally convenient for the landlord and tenant. But now that a great and decided improvement in the mode of farming has taken place, and is increasing rapidly in all the purely agricultural districts, it will be expedient and

equitable to give a considerable extension to the period of a lease. It is on every account desirable that the tenant should enjoy at least three, or perhaps four, returns of his rotation. But if by allowing the fields to lie in grass for two or three years, he extend his rotation from five or six, to seven or eight years, he cannot receive this advantage unless his lease be for twenty-four years, instead of nineteen. No sound objection, as far as we can judge, can be offered to this proposed alteration on the part of landlords,—because rents being now very generally paid according to the fiars, the landlords will always share in any rise that takes place in the value of farm produce, and because the land, under the new system of resting for three years out of eight, would always be kept in the highest order.

*The average amount of raw produce.—*

The gross amount of all descriptions of grain raised annually in the parish may be estimated at 8336 bolls, which will average	L. 8336
Potatoes and turnips grown in the fields, at	2765
Grass at	606
	Total, L. 11,707

The gross rental of the parish will average nearly L. 3000.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Newburgh is the nearest market and post-town, being distant about four miles.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situated in the centre of the parish, and at a convenient distance from the remotest houses. It was built in 1803, and is in excellent repair. It is seated for 200, allowing eighteen inches to a seat. The sittings are all free. The manse was built in 1792. A considerable addition was made to it fourteen years ago. It is both comfortable and commodious. The glebe consists of about 5 acres imperial of good land. The stipend is 14 chalders of barley, bear, meal, and oats; but nearly L. 70 of it is paid in money. There is not a dissenting family in the parish. The farm-servants, with very few exceptions, all belong to the Established church. They change every year, yet there is never above one or two individuals among them that are members of any other denomination, which may be received as a decided proof that the whole body of the agricultural population are still attached to the Establishment.

The average number of communicants is 135, which number comprehends a good many from the adjoining parishes of Flisk and Abdie, who always attend on ordinances in the church of Dunbog. The annual amount of collections for the poor do not exceed

L. 12. We have contributed liberally to the schemes of the General Assembly for education in the Highlands of Scotland, and for the propagation of the Gospel in India.

*Education.*—There is only one school in the parish. The ordinary branches of instruction are taught. The salary is the maximum. The fees are small, and do not produce above L. 15 per annum. There is no person in the parish unable to read and write, but very many who read and write very ill.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The poor roll is at present a heavy one. We have many aged persons, and two families of orphan children. There are 13 in the receipt of a weekly aliment. We very seldom give the allowance in money, but authorize the tenant under whom the paupers reside, to give as much meal and potatoes as will keep them with comfort. Our annual outlay is nearly L. 30. Of this sum we have about L. 12 from church collections,—the rest is drawn from money belonging to the poor.

*Fuel.*—The only fuel used in this neighbourhood is coal, which is driven from the mouth of the pit. The nearest mines are those of Coul and Balbirnie, about nine miles distant. The fuel from both is good, and the price is moderate.

July 1836.

## PARISH OF LEUCHARS.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. DAVID WATSON, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE ancient name of the parish seems to have been Lough-yards, which is now changed to Leuchars. The low and level grounds, extending for miles to the east and west of the village, were under water for the greater part of the year, and might well be considered a loch before the lands were drained. The elevated ground in the immediate vicinity might be the yards attached to the village. According to some, Leuchars is a Celtic word, and signifies a rushy or marshy flat. Sibbald says, the name is “a Locro, Pictorum magnate ejusdem possessore.”

*Extent, Boundaries.*—This parish, from north-east to south-west,