

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,

extends 9 miles; its greatest breadth from north-west to south-east is 5 miles. It is bounded by the bay of St Andrews, on the east; the river Eden, on the south; by the parishes of Dairsie and Logie, on the west; by Forgan and Ferry-Port-on-Craig, on the north; and is of a very irregular figure.

Topographical Appearances.—The general aspect of the parish is that of an extensive flat rather bare of wood, for many square miles,—not exceeding 15 feet in elevation above the level of the sea. As it verges westward, however, the ground rises gradually, till it reaches the top of the range of hills which separates it from Logie, when its elevation may be about 250 or 300 feet above the level of the sea. These hills are a branch of the terminating range of the Ochils, and are called Lucklaw, Airdit, and Craigfoodie. Of these, the summit of Airdit only is in this parish; but the whole range, of four miles extent, forms a beautiful boundary and a shelter to the level ground on the south-east. The land is now well drained both by deep and surface draining; and the lighter land, at the east and north sides of the parish, is well enclosed for sheep husbandry, which has prevailed of late to a considerable extent, and is found a great improvement for such soils.

The west division of the parish contains six farms. These are on elevated ground, inclining with a gentle slope, and are composed of soils consisting of clay, soft loam, and gravel. The soil in which gravel abounds, notwithstanding the thorough draining to which it has been subjected, retains much of its former spongy and wet character.

The sea shore is flat and sandy. The tide retires from the shore about half a-mile on ebbing. There is no alluvial soil deposited by the Eden; but the sand banks are always on the increase. The bar of sand at its mouth is dangerous for shipping; and, the noise with which the motion of the tide over it, is frequently accompanied, indicates a coming or retiring storm.

Hydrography.—The river Eden, which forms the southern boundary for four or five miles, is navigable as far as the Guard bridge. Here is a small harbour, which, from its commodious situation, serves as the emporium of this part of the country. At spring-tides, vessels of considerable burden can make their way to it without difficulty. At the Guard bridge, a few salmon trouts are caught in autumn. Near the mouth of the river, are mussel beds of considerable value. These are let by the proprietors for a period of four or five years, to a tenant who pays every attention to their cultivation and

propagation. These mussel beds furnish bait to many fishers along the east coast of Scotland.

The other streams are the Moultry, which traverses the parish in a direction from north to south, discharging itself into the Eden, and the Monzie burn, flowing from the west, and joining the Moultry. On both of these streams are meal and barley mills.

Geology and Mineralogy.—There is nothing remarkable as to the geology of the parish. The whole of the extensive flat known by the name of the Tents moor seems, from the appearance of its surface, to have been abandoned by the German Ocean at no very remote period. On advancing westward from the Tents moor to the Moultry, the character of the soil improves, till we find extensive beds of strong blue clay. In various parts of the Tents moor, frequent bores have been sunk to a considerable depth; but by these nothing has been discovered but the same indurated sand by which this vast plain is so uniformly characterized. It is supposed that, a good way beneath the surface, a subordinate range of the prevailing rock of the high ground district to the north-west, which is whinstone, runs across the Tents moor in an eastern direction. This whinstone affords numerous excellent quarries, and is much esteemed both for the purposes of building and road-metalling.

Lucklaw hill is composed of rocks of the trap formation. Augite greenstone, traversed by ill-defined veins of coarse calcareous spar, forms one prominent member in its composition, and felspar porphyry another. This felspar porphyry is well exhibited by a cut which was made by the proprietor, on the face of the hill, many years ago, with a view to quarry it. Quarrying operations are no longer conducted, though this rock, from its extreme solidity and durability, cannot fail to be esteemed of considerable importance in an economical point of view.

Within a quarter of a mile of the Eden, on the farm of Brocklay, is a stratum of new red sandstone, which, from the coarseness of its texture, and the imperfect consolidation of its component parts, is little used as a building material. It is of a brick colour, and bears the marks of a rapid deposition from water, with the materials of each successive deposit distinctly traceable. Vegetable impressions have been discovered, associated with this rock. The specimens which have been procured, we believe, are of the fern species; but those that have been obtained are few.

Deer's horns have been dug up in the Tents moor. Fossil remains of oaks of a large species have been found in the alluvial

lands situated round the village. These were found to be in a very entire state, and useful for domestic purposes.

Every variety of soil, from the richest loam and clay, to the poorest sand or moorish clay, is found in this parish; but no marl, lime, or coal. This parish seems to have been cultivated from the earliest times. Its productiveness is best evidenced by its affording teinds to the ministers of other parishes, even to the parish of Dull, in Perthshire.

Wood.—In the north-east part of the parish, where the soil is extremely light and sandy, the Scotch pines grow to a considerable size. This parish does not abound much in hard wood; that which seems to thrive best, is the ash. Some fine old trees are found at Earlshall, Pitlethie, Pitcullo, and Airdit.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

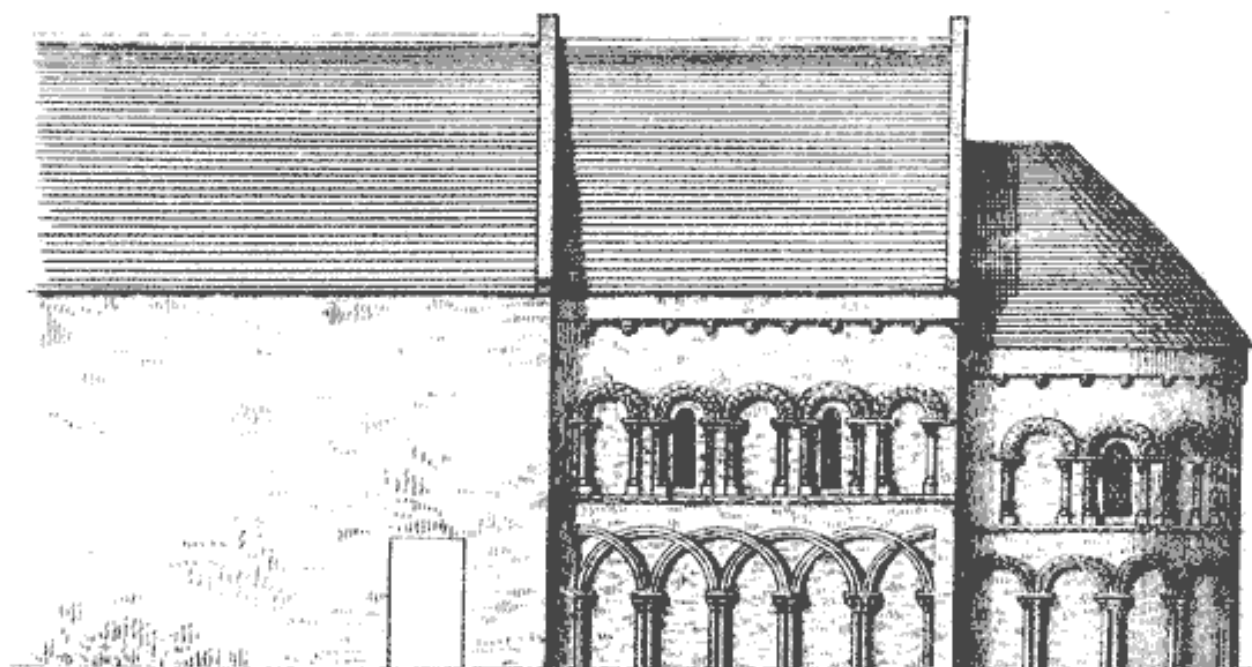
The Earls of Southesk and the Bruces of Earlshall were the oldest proprietors of the greater part of the parish; but their history contains nothing so important as to merit a place in this work. The famous Alexander Henderson, who was minister of this parish for more than twenty years, is so well known to the public, and his life and character so fully delineated in the late work of Dr Aiton, that any observations of ours upon the history of that remarkable individual, would be superfluous.

Land-owners.—The present land-owners are, 1. Colonel Lindsay, who has just succeeded to his much lamented father, the Honourable Robert Lindsay, who purchased the estate of Leuchars from Sir David Carnegie; 2. Lieutenant-Colonel Long, who purchased Earlshall from the late Sir Robert Bruce Henderson; 3. A. B. Stewart, the late purchaser of Airdit; 4. Cheape of Pusk and Welfield; 5. The Bank of Scotland; 6. George Macgill of Kemback, the proprietor of Lucklaw; 7. Russell of Hayston and Brocklay; 8. William Lawson of Pitlethie; 9. Mr Pitcairn of Pitcullo; 10. Peter Walker of Muirhead. Four of the proprietors only are resident, and farm their own estates.

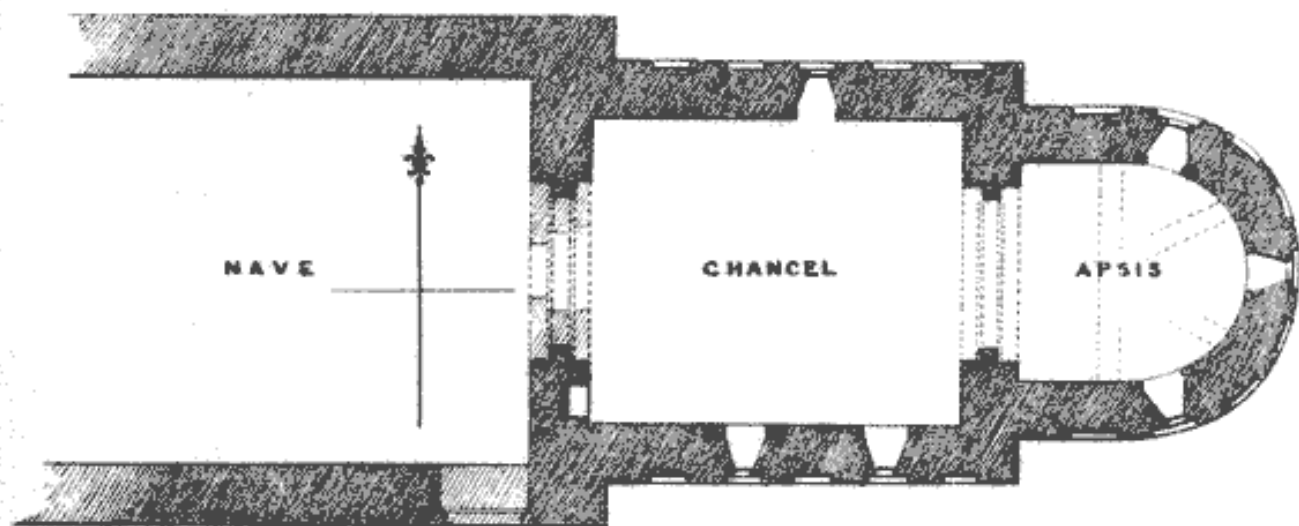
Parochial Registers.—The earliest register extant of births and the session records commence with the year 1665. In the register of births, there is a hiatus of seven years, extending from 1699–1705. The session minutes consist of three volumes, the first reaching from 1666–1737; the second from 1737 to 1762; the third from 1762 to the present year. No register of deaths previous to 1766.

Antiquities.—The chief object worthy of the attention of the

ELEVATION of the ancient part of the Parish Church of **LEUCHARS,**
with the altered and defaced parts restored.



PLAN



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J. M. K. fecit, 1835.

Forrester & Nichol lithog.

antiquary is the church, a view of the elevation of the ancient part of which, together with a description of its architecture, we are enabled to embody in these pages, through the kindness of John M'Kinlay, Esq. Bo-ness, who is well versed in the antiquities of this country. This church appears to have been built at three several periods. The eastern division forming the chancel consisted of a square building, having a semicircular apsis towards the east, in which the altar was placed, and is built in the style usually called Saxon, of which it is one of the most entire and interesting specimens to be found in Scotland. The second division was the original nave of the church, having an aisle projecting to the north. This portion of the building also is in the Saxon style, but later than the former; and the third division is comparatively modern, being probably not more ancient than the time of the Reformation. The two last divisions have been greatly altered and modernized, and are fitted up as the parish church, and, although neat and comfortable enough, do not merit any particular description.

The eastern portion consists of two parts. The apsis or semicircular recess to the east, for the reception of the altar, is narrower, and not quite so high as the body of the chancel. Externally, it is of two stages or storeys, the lower one consists of a range of ten semicircular arches, with zig-zag or chevron mouldings, resting on plain double pillars. Above those arches, there is a band or fillet, and resting upon this, is a range of nine smaller arches, supported by short pillars, each pair of which are separated by a small intervening pier. Each of the arches connecting the tops of those pillars consists of two rows of stones, the lower one ornamented with the zig-zag moulding, and the upper one with the billet moulding. The pillars of this upper arcade are placed over the centre of each of the lower arches. There are three windows in the upper tier, placed in the intervals between the pillars; they are narrow and round topped, and widen internally. At some distance above the upper tier of arches, there is a range of *corbels* carved into grotesque heads, supporting the upper part of the wall, which projects a little. The roof appears, from marks on the gable of the other portion of the chancel, to have been a semicone of a pretty high pitch,—but this has been removed, together with two courses of stone off the walls, to make room for a belfry erected about half a century ago, in the degenerate style then in vogue; and in order to support this mass of incongruity, a rude arch has been thrown across within, which partially blocks up two of the windows, and spoils the

appearance of the groined ceiling. In the inside, the windows are decorated with pillars similar to the outside. The roof consists of a simple cross rib of three reeds, with two half arches meeting it in the centre, and groined between. Those arches spring from short pillars supported on projecting corbels, representing heads of animals. A lofty arch opened from the apsis into the body of the chancel, and a similar one opened from thence into the nave. The sides of those arches are each formed of three slender pillars, the middle one projecting beyond the others. The arches connecting them above are ornamented with the zig-zag and fillet mouldings. This portion of the building has two windows to the south, and one to the north. They are ornamented on the inside with pillars, and rich mouldings from the soffits of the arches. The outside of this part of the building, like the apsis, consists of two tiers of arches, the lower rests upon four double and two single pillars on each front, and the tops of each alternate pillar connected by intersecting semicircular arches, so that the spaces between each two pillars have the form of Gothic arches. Over these arches, there is a band or fillet, on which is placed an upper range of pillars and arches similar to those on the apsis, but the pillars stand directly over those of the lower tier. Above this tier of arches, there is a range of corbels representing faces, supporting the upper part of the wall. The roof is high in the pitch, and the timbers are open to the view inside, the body of the chancel not having been arched. Ancient gravestones form the pavement, and this portion of the building is now little else than a tomb. From the style of architecture, it is probable that this portion of the church was built about the year 1100, when the Saxon style prevailed. At or about the period of the Reformation, the two windows on the south side of the body of the chancel were built up, and two square windows with a single stone mullion in each were substituted; and one of the same in the apsis; and although they are somewhat interesting, as showing the degraded style which succeeded the Gothic, it were desirable to have them removed, and the original appearance restored.

The original nave is probably not much later in date than the chancel; but as it only consists of plain dead walls with a single hatched fillet, there is not much from which its date can be ascertained. From the unbroken appearance of the side walls, there does not appear to have been any windows. It was probably lighted by windows in the west gable, which is now removed. A wide and lofty arch

opens into the aisle, the walls of which were formerly only about half their present height, and a similar arch opens into the more modern part of the nave, forming together what is now used as the parish church.

Where the parish school now stands, there once was a chapel called St Bennet's, of which Sir Thomas Wemyss was chaplain at the Reformation.* No vestige of it remains; but many human bones are found near the spot inclosed in stone coffins; which, being by no means entire, point to a remote date. To the north of the village, there is a curious circular elevation where stood the castle of Leuchars. It has all the appearance of having been artificially formed, with a moat around it, and a deep well in the centre. It occupies about an acre of ground.*

There are three ruins of old mansions of a castellated form, kept in partial repair,—these are Earls-hall, Pitcullo, and Airdit. Earls-hall is an interesting object. Its large, venerable hall, whose roof and walls are crowded with crests, inscriptions, &c. is well worthy the attention of the antiquary.†

The most interesting relic of antiquity that has been found in this parish is an earthen jar, which was discovered on Craigiehill, in the year 1808. This jar was found to contain nearly a hundred silver coins in perfect preservation. Unfortunately the jar itself was shivered to pieces by the plough, by which it was thrown up. But most of the coins were secured by the proprietor, the late Hon. Robert Lindsay of Balcarres, where they remain. The coins are stamped with the heads of Roman emperors, such as Severus, Antoninus, Faustina, &c.

III.—POPULATION.

There has been very little variation in the number of inhabitants in this parish from the earliest times till now, as is the case in most agricultural districts. The only change upon the population is that of locality. The Tents moor, which of old used to be studded with turf built cottages, and gardens and crofts attached to them, is now, in a great measure, depopulated, from the extensive farms which have been formed upon it. Many of the former inhabitants of the moors shifted their quarters to the village, and other parts of the parish:

* The castle was anciently a place of strength, and one of the strongholds of the Earls of Fife; dismantled, however, by the English in the fourteenth century.

† The dates inscribed in the hall show the building to have been founded in 1646, and finished in 1617.

wide, and 12 or 14 feet deep, an immense extent of rich land has been gained. Numerous side cuts have been made into it. Tile or furrow draining is also practised successfully. The only inconvenience from this extensive draining is the great multiplication of the grey rat. Inclosing by dikes of stone and lime has gone on with great spirit within these twenty years past, and greatly benefited the lighter soils.

The introduction of the steam-engine into the thrashing-mills on two farms is found a great saving of horse power.

The steadings are now universally in good condition, and on several farms have very excellent accommodation for cattle. There is, however, still a want of cottars' houses for farm-servants, which obliges the farmer to crowd young ploughmen into bothies, which is unfavourable to their improvement in morals. It would perhaps remedy the evil, to distribute the young men among the families of those that are married, and lodge one or two of them with the tenant himself, that all may be under some superintendence, and be profitably employed at leisure hours. Indeed, the bothy system is universally reprobated. The farm roads that are not on the statute labour books, are in the worst condition, especially in winter. This is a subject of loud complaint with those who pay so heavily for statute labour, and reap so little benefit from it.

No. of acres in the parish amounts altogether to about,	9800 Scotch aerea.
under regular cultivation, and not in pasture are	6310
poor clay, and light land, often in pasture,	3060
in plantations,	360
in roads,	70

Rent of Land.—There are 31 farms (beside small feus) of every variety of soil and size; and 140 ploughs, averaging fifty acres for each plough. The average rent of good land is L. 2, 10s. per acre, or rather L. 1, with one-half boll of wheat, one-half boll barley, and one-half boll oats. Many acres are still valued at L. 4 each. Poor soils are from L. 1, 10s. to 7s. 6d. per acre, the average value of the Tents moor. The long tract of bents is fit for nothing but harbouring rabbits, a species of stock once in greater repute, but now nearly extirpated, on account of its diminished value, and its depredations on the neighbouring crops. About a thousand acres of such links may be considered not worth cultivating. The valued rental is L. 10,541 Scots. The allowed real rental at last valuation of stipend was L. 13,660, and it is thought that if the farms were out of lease, they could not at present bring much beyond that sum. But it is difficult to ascertain the real rental, as there

are nine proprietors who at present farm their own property, and the rents of the farms in lease vary every year, as they are paid by the fiars.

The Clydesdale horse is most in use here, and the Teeswater breed of cattle, crossed with the Fife, is in greatest repute. We have every variety of sheep,—Leicester, Cheviot, and Highland. The last are fed with turnip in winter, for the butcher. The two first are kept for lambing in spring.

Produce.—The average amount and value of gross produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows :

Produce of grain from 33000 acres at L. 7 per acre,	-	-	L. 22000
potatoes and turnips at L. 7 per acre,	-	-	6000
hay at 7d per stone,	-	-	4000
pasture land, good and bad,	-	-	5000
fisheries, &c.	-	-	300
			<hr/>
			L. 37300

Little flax or hay is raised for the market.

Manufactures.—Besides the employment of about 30 families as masons, carpenters, smiths, tailors, shoemakers in this parish, there are a great many engaged in weaving. Independent of the weavers who are employed in towelling and sheeting for home consumption, there are about two-thirds who work coarse linens, chiefly Dowlas, Osnaburghs, and Silesias for the Cupar and Dundee manufacturers, who export them for America and the West Indies. Many of our young females take to the loom during the winter months, but in summer they prefer out-door work. Since the introduction of machinery, hand-spinning has almost ceased to be a branch of industry. A spindle of yarn will occupy a woman three days and a-half, for which she will earn 1s.; a spindle of shirting yarn will yield double that sum. The number of looms altogether in this parish may be estimated at about 130. Our weavers are most industrious, working many of them ten hours, sometimes even more. Before the salutary change which the weaving interest has lately experienced, the gain per day at the loom, with the deduction of 4d. for expenses, did not exceed 8d. Now, however, provisions being moderate, their labour commands a fair remuneration.

An extensive distillery was erected at Seggie, upon the river Eden, twenty-six years ago, and has, with the exception of this year, been all along in successful operation, distilling about 100 quarters of grain per day, during the cool season. Several scores of

cattle were annually fed within the premises. It yielded constant employment to about 100 workmen, who received ample wages. The advantages of such an establishment to the farmers in the neighbourhood have been fully appreciated; as a ready market was afforded them for the disposal of grain.

A saw-mill, barley, lint, and two oatmeal-mills are in the parish.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns.—The market-towns of Cupar, St Andrews, and Dundee, situated at seven, six, and eight miles' distance respectively, with daily communication by post and carriers, afford every advantage to the parish for buying and selling.

Villages.—The two villages,—Leuchars, with 614 inhabitants, and Balmullo, a straggling village on the Dundee public road, with 250 inhabitants,—are dry, well-aired, well-watered, and healthy villages, with excellent turnpikes through them.

Means of Communication.—The soil being dry, the roads throughout the parish are kept without difficulty in the best repair. There are fourteen miles of turnpike, and nearly ten of statute labour roads. Three four-horse coaches have continued to pass through the parish daily from Edinburgh to Aberdeen for many years, but their number is now reduced to two. Coaches run twice a-week by way of Leuchars between Dundee and St Andrews. Besides the Guard-bridge pier already mentioned, there is another at Seggie, which is chiefly for the convenience of the distillery.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church, situate in the village of Leuchars, is distant from the east end of the parish about four miles, and from the western extremity nearly six miles. A more central position for the bulk of the population would be about a mile farther to the westward. It is a commodious, well-lighted, and comfortable building, accommodating 850 sitters. There are not more than a dozen free sittings in the church; 1s. 8d. only is the average of each seat per annum. A deep gallery, holding 150 persons, erected out of the poor's funds, accommodates the householders at prices graduating from 2s. 6d. to 6d. each. As many more are also supplied with seats, at a small rent, by the principal heritors, after the tenants and their cottars are provided.

The manse was built in 1806, and is still considered a respectable and well-finished house, and pleasantly situated. The glebe, together with the garden, contains about 9 Scots acres of such land as would rent at about £. 4 per acre. The stipend allocated in 1820 amounts to 16 chalders, which, for the last four

years averages at L. 218 Sterling, with L. 8, 6s 8d. for communion elements.

There is only one church of Original Seceders, stationed at Balmullo, with about 70 joined members, and a respectable minister, whose stipend is of small and variable amount. But to supply the deficiency, his supporters have built him a small manse and a few offices, and granted two acres for a cow's grass.

The attendance at the Established Church throughout the year is steady and full. The number of persons attending church may be estimated at 600 generally. The number of communicants average 700. Some are induced, from convenience, usually to attend the neighbouring parish churches. The number of dissenters throughout the parish is perhaps not more than 100.

A society has been established for twelve years for promoting religious purposes at home and abroad, which has contributed about L. 40 annually. However, it is now fast declining.

The collections throughout the year at the church door average L. 28, and have varied little in amount for the last twenty-five years. The farmers seem to prefer giving their charity to their cottars, with whom they are more immediately connected. The villagers assist their poorer neighbours in a similar way, without troubling the kirk-session, by rendering it the medium of communication. A mistaken idea prevails among many that the session funds are so rich as to require no addition to them.

Education.—There are four schools; one parochial and three unendowed. Of the latter, one is for teaching sewing chiefly, and English reading,—is supported by the Balcarres family, and the fees of the scholars. The remaining two are supported by fees alone. The branches taught in the parish school are, English, Latin, Greek, arithmetic, practical mathematics, writing, grammar, and geography. At present there are no Latin or Greek scholars. The amount of fees in the parochial school is L. 20; do. in the Balmullo school at present L. 40 nearly. The amount of fees in the other two varies much. The parish schoolmaster now enjoys the maximum salary; and interest of 2000 merks Scots, also a glebe of two acres, bequeathed by the Rev. A. Henderson. The children generally attend only two or three quarters in the year, and pay 6s., 7s. 6d., or at most 9s. per annum each, but often pay weekly. No person is known to be incapable of reading, and very few who cannot write after nine years of age. There

is also a flourishing Sabbath school, which has subsisted for twenty years. No additional school is needed.

Literature.—A parish library was lately instituted by private subscription in Leuchars, containing some hundred volumes of various useful and entertaining reading, calculated to promote mental and moral improvement.

Poor.—The multiplication of paupers is owing to the growing impression, that heritors are bound to support the poor. Dilapidations are annually making on the lying capital, and are in the course of annihilating it. The number now receiving aid regularly from the kirk-session is 30 persons; occasionally, 36. The average number for a few years past is about 25. Average of aliment per week for each is 1s. 3d. The annual amount of charitable contributions is L. 75; collections, L. 23; land-rent, L. 24; church seat rents, L. 12; interest, mortcloth, hearse, L. 11.

Fairs.—Two fairs are held at Leuchars each year for the sale of cattle and small wares. But of late years they have been little frequented.

Alehouses.—There are 6 alehouses in the village of Leuchars, and other 6 along the great roads of the parish.

Fuel.—Coal is brought from Newcastle and the Frith of Forth by sea; also by land from the coal districts in the county. Wood is much used as a burning material by the villagers, who enjoy the valuable privilege of carrying home the *debris* from the plantation on Colonel Lindsay's estate.

Advantage is often taken of the savings banks in the neighbouring towns.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since last survey, the greatest change is the enlargement of our villages, and the depopulation of the country parts of the parish, which has not been attended with an improvement in the morals of the people in general.

September 1836.