

# UNITED PARISHES OF INVERKEITHING AND ROSYTH.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. ANDREW ROBERTSON, MINISTER.

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.\*

*Name.*—THE name is variously written; formerly, it was Enderkeyden, Henderkeyden, Enderkeithen, and Innerkeithing; at present, it is Inverkeithing. It is said to be derived from the Gaelic, according to one etymology, signifying "the mouth of the Keith," the rivulet which at this place falls into the sea; according to another, "the confluence of the slow misty water with the sea;" according to a third, "the entrance of the water into the sea between little hills,"—with which last, appearances best correspond. Rosyth, formerly Rosaith, is said to be also from the Gaelic, and to denote a tongue of land extending into the water.

The parishes were united in 1636. The deed of annexation being lost, nothing certain is known about the terms of the union; but it is said that the incumbent was to preach for two Sabbaths successively in Inverkeithing, but on every third Sabbath at Rosyth.

*Topographical Appearances.*—This parish is of a very irregular figure. The Ferry hills form an indented, and somewhat circular peninsula, upward of a mile in diameter, with a neck about 300 yards broad. From this neck of land, the parish extends westward upwards of three miles, (including the harbour of Brucehaven, and a small portion of Limekilns,) and runs northward to Crossgates,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and eastward to Letham hill, about 1 mile. Its general figure, (exclusive of the Ferry hills,) resembles two arms stretched out nearly at right angles, embracing a part of the parish of Dunfermline, and nowhere much exceeding a mile in breadth. At one place, the parish of Dunfermline approaches within half a mile of the burgh. The Frith of Forth is the southern and

\* The scientific part of this account prepared by the Rev. Andrew Robertson, Junior.

part of the eastern boundary of the parish ; it adjoins to Dalgety on the east ; and is next to Dunfermline on the north and west.

This parish may be viewed as consisting, in the south part, of a range of greenstone hills, not exceeding 300 feet above the level of the sea ; of a rising ground with a southerly exposure in the north part ; and of a valley between, running east and west. There are about six miles of sea coast ; a small portion sandy, another rocky and rather high ; the remainder intermingled mud and rock. The bay of St Margaret's Hope, the islet of Inch Garvie, and the rock Bimar, which last has often been the cause of shipwreck, are within the parish.

*Meteorology.*—More rain falls, a few miles inland, either to the north or south than here,—it being observed that the clouds, moving towards the Frith before a westerly wind, divide about Stirling, and keep the higher range of country on both sides of the estuary, leaving the lower grounds near it comparatively free. Sometimes the rain is so strongly electrical, that the common electrometer for rain will charge a coated jar very smartly in a few minutes.

*Hydrography.*—The adjoining Frith has strong currents during the flowing and ebbing of the tides, with many eddies and counter-currents, particularly near the Ferry, where it is about a mile and a half only broad. Between Inch Garvie and the north side, the greatest depth is about 40 fathoms ; south of that rock it is not more than 22. Near Bimar, there is one point where it is said to be upwards of 50 ; but a mile farther up it does not exceed 11, with a bank in the middle on which there is still shoaler water.

There is no submarine moss known to exist on the shores of the parish, though frequently these are covered to a considerable depth, with the moss thrown into the water at Blair Drummond, and floated down with the ebbing tide. There is, however, a considerable concretion of the sea sand going on in several places, forming flat reefs, some of them covered with sea-weed, and not much softer than the sandstone rock.

The water of the springs in this neighbourhood is generally impure, with a few exceptions,—carbonate of lime, and in the upper part of the parish, iron, being the characteristic contaminating substances. The composition of one of them may be seen in Jameson's Edinburgh Philosophical Journal for April 1829. There are none of these springs of note or considerable size, and most of them fail in dry weather. The temperature of such of them as have been tried is 47° or 48° F. Two burns or streamlets run through the parish, unite and fall into the harbour.

*Geology.*—With the slight exceptions of a few hill tops and steep faces, almost the whole of the parish is in a high state of cultivation. In the southern part, the soil is a decomposed greenstone, light on the eminences, but very fertile. More in the interior, it is clayey or sandy, having chiefly sandstone for its substratum, but still excellent in quality. On the higher grounds in the north of the parish, it consists of a ferruginous sand or clay, or of moss, very poor, and not susceptible of much improvement, the effect of labour and manure upon it being in a great measure destroyed by the first wet season. There is a good deal of alluvial soil on the banks of the streamlets running through the parish, and in some places near the sea, a few acres of deposits of sand or clay.

From the state of cultivation in which the parish is, there are often, in the interior part of it, no exposures of the subjacent strata for spaces of a square mile together. There are, however, some very good sections along the east and south-west sides of it, where it is washed by the sea; on the north-east, where it is bounded by a rivulet with steep banks; and in several quarries.

The stratified rocks are wholly of the coal formation of the secondary series, in many places broken through, distorted and overlaid by various modifications of trap rock, usually greenstone.

In the north part of the parish coal exists, but it crops out about a mile north of the town, and, in the greater part of the parish, the strata underly the coal, and consist of the mountain limestone, sandstone, slate-clay, clay-ironstone, bituminous shale, and a stratified whitish slate-clay or marl; these being deeply buried in many places beneath the trap rocks, with alluvial matter, chiefly clay. The small islands and rocks in the Frith, which are in the parish, are wholly of greenstone.

The stratified rocks, in the southern part of the parish particularly, bear the marks of having been acted on by a disturbing force producing disruption of the strata, and inclination of them in various directions, this inclination often changing abruptly within very short distances. This disturbing force appears to have been intimately connected with the masses of trap rock which penetrate the strata in many places, and it has generally acted by depressing the strata, and causing them to dip all round towards the centre of the mass of greenstone, in very few instances by upraising them, and giving them a dip away from it.

Few simple minerals are contained in the rocks of this neigh-

bourhood. Quartz crystals, some of them purple, steatite, sulphate of barytes, felspar, and some zeolites, are found in the greenstone; calcareous spar both in the greenstone and limestone; and pyrites is abundant in the ironstone, slate-clay, greenstone and limestone. Galena\* and flinty slate also exist, and boulders of chlorite and mica slate, sometimes of large size, are not uncommon,—though within these few years, four of the largest of these have been blasted to pieces for building materials, or for making drains. The greenstone rocks frequently assume the columnar form.

*Zoology.*—The most noted wild quadrupeds are the hare, badger, fox, otter, weasel, but all very scarce. Among the birds may be enumerated the pheasant, partridge, sparrow-hawk, kite, a blue-looking hawk, the common and a white owl, raven, carrion-crow, rook, wood-pigeon, thrush and blackbird, both of which are much on the increase, fieldfare, redwing, stonechat, snow and common bunting, three species of linnet, whin-sparrow, reed-sparrow, several of the creepers, jay, magpie, blue and yellow wagtails, chaffinch, wren, &c.; wood-cock, snipe; green, gray and golden plovers; curlew, whimbrel, brown dotterel, and several more of the scolopax tribe; several species of gull, the black-headed tern, pied oyster catcher, several species of duck, the teal, widgeon, auks, the plane and hooked-beaked marrots, the cormorant, heron, wild goose, swan, solan-goose, and, though very rarely, a large species of *Anas* with a red mark of a horse-shoe form on the breast. Most of these birds desert the place in summer and return in winter. Of amphibia and fishes, there are two species of seals, the porpoise, the finner, so named from its long dorsal fin, the bottle-nosed whale, a much larger species of whale, salmon, sea-trout, cod, codling, podley, seathe, flounder, skate, herring, white-bait, &c. The common cuttle is frequently thrown upon the beach, and occasionally that deformed fish the *Lophius* of a large size. A large Opah was thrown on shore on the 23d July 1835, but it was cut into several pieces, as the first step in the process of frying, before it was seen by any one who knew its value. This exceedingly rare and most beautiful fish must be seen in the recent state, before any conception can be formed of its superb appearance. The spots, and green, gold, and silver lustre of the skin, contrasted with the bright red of the fins and tail, constitute a whole which

\* *Vide* for particulars, "Analysis of Galena, from Castleland Hill, near Inverkeithing, by the Rev. A. Robertson, Junior," in Vol. vii. of *Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal*.

surpasses description. The skin of it was uncommonly thick and of a whitish texture; the flesh resembled dark-coloured beef. Some of the medusas abound in autumn. There are no shell-fish of consequence.

*Botany.*—The following rather rare plants have been gathered during the last five years in the parish, or within half a mile of its boundaries, and any doubtful ones verified by the highest authority. The names are those of Hooker's British Flora.

Salicornia herbacea	Salsola kali
Veronica scutellata	Chenopodium maritimum
————— polita	————— album
————— Bauxbaumii	————— urbicum
Fedia dentata	————— bonus Henricus
————— auricula	Cicuta virosa
————— mixta	Heliosciadum inundatum
Eriophorum angustifolium	Myrrhis odorata
Eleocharis pauciflora	Ceanothe crocata
Scirpus maritimus	Torilis nodosa
————— sylvaticus	Parnassia palustris
Iris fetidissima	Sambucus ebulus
Alopecurus agrestis	Drosera Anglica
Poa distans	Allium vineale
————— rigida	————— arenarium
Hordeum murinum	Galanthus nivalis
Brachypodium sylvaticum	Triglochin maritimum
Rotbolla incurvata	————— palustre
Polypogon monspeliense	Tulipa sylvestris
Setaria viridis	Alisma ranunculoides
Catabrosa aquatica, dwarf single-flowered variety	Acer campestre
Festuca myurus	Adoxa moschatellina
————— rubra	Paris quadrifolia
Triticum loliaceum	Scleranthus annuus
Bromus rigidus	Chrysosplenium alternifolium
————— arvensis	Sexifraga granulata
Dipsacus sylvestris	Silene Anglica
Parietaria officinalis	————— noctiflora
Sagina maritima	————— nutans
————— apetala	Saponaria officinalis
Primula veris	Arenaria rubra
————— elatior	————— maritima
Myosotis collina	————— trinervis
————— cespitosa	Spergula subulata
————— sylvatica	Sedum telephium
Symphytum officinale	————— reflexum
————— tuberosum	————— villosum
Viola hirta	Reseda lutea
————— odorata	————— luteola
————— palustris	Prunus domestica
Convolvulus sepium	————— insititia
Cynoglossum officinale	Tormentilla reptans
Erythraea centaurium	Potentilla reptans
Solanum dulcamara	Spiraea filipendula
————— nigrum	Helianthemum vulgare
Hyoscyamus niger	Glaucium luteum
Campanula trachelium	Thalictrum flavum
Anchusa semper-virens	————— majus
Gentiana campestris	————— minus
Ligusticum scoticum	Ranunculus sceleratus
Pimpinella saxifraga	————— auricomus
	Acinos vulgaris

Mentha viridis	Hypericum perforatum
----- piperita	----- pulchrum
Marrubium vulgare	----- hirsutum
Origanum vulgare	----- quadrangulum
Ballota nigra	Cichorium Intybus
Stachys arvensis	Carduus acanthoides
----- ambigua	----- tenuiflorus
Linaria repens	----- marianus
Coronopus Ruellii	----- nutans
Sisymbrium sophia	Bidens cernua
Nasturtium sylvestris	----- tripartita
Lepidium latifolium	Tragopogon majus
----- campestre	Artemisia absinthium
----- ruderale	Gnaphalium dioicum
Camelina sativa	----- minimum
Thlaspi arvense	----- germanicum
Hesperis matronalis	----- rectum
Barbarea præcox	----- sylvaticum
Sinapis nigra	----- uliginosum
----- alba	Aster tripolium
----- tenuifolia	Pyrethrum parthenium
----- muralis	Matricaria chamomilla
Geranium pyrenaicum	Anthemis arvensis
----- columbinum	----- cotula
----- sanguineum	Habenaria viridis
Malva sylvestris	Gymnadenia conopsea
----- moschata	Malaxis paludosa
Lavatera arborea	Epipactis latifolia
Ononis ramossissima	Euphorbia Lathyris
Vicia lutea	----- exigua
----- Bobartii	----- paralia
----- sativa	----- portlandica
----- lathyroides	Arum maculatum
Oxytropis uralensis	Carex limosa, and other rare carices
Astragalus glycyphyllus	Myrica gale
Ornithopus perpusillus	Atriplex angustifolia
Ervum tetraspermum	----- littoralis
Melilotus officinalis	----- laciniata
----- leucantha	Cistopteris fragilis
Trifolium scabrum	Aspidium lobatum
----- striatum	Asplenium marinum
----- ornithopodioides	----- ruta-muraria
Medicago sativa	----- trichomanes
----- maculata	----- adiantum nigrum

This is given as the only Scottish station of *Verbena officinalis*, but it has not been found for many years back.

*Uses, &c.*—*Reseda luteola* has sometimes been collected in cartloads, for the dyers; *Menyanthes trifoliata* is given occasionally as a bitter, particularly to sick calves, and also *Teucrium scorodonia*. Nettles (*Urtica dioica*) and the *Caltha palustris* are used as an ingredient in *rennet* for curdling milk; St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum* and *pulchrum*) in an herb mixture for coughs; and an infusion of black horehound (*Ballota nigra*) for colds. This last, however, appears to be but a rough medicine. A person who took it, said that it made him very "sick and ill," though it cured him. The leaves of *Tussilago farfara* have been smoked

by asthmatic people, instead of tobacco, it is said, with considerable benefit; and infusion of agrimony is a favourite beverage with some old persons, instead of tea.\*

From the high state of cultivation in which the parish is, it cannot well be ascertained what plants are attached to certain soils, excepting the well known distinctions of aquatic, bog, and rock plants. The rarer plants are usually found in the greenstone soil, but in general the plants do not affect soils so much as localities; a plant being often abundant in one spot, while in another, under exactly similar circumstances, not a particle of it is to be seen.

There are few plantations of trees, and these but of very small extent. When young these contain principally larch and fir, which, as they grow up, are thinned out to make room for the elm, oak, ash, and beech, planted along with them. The only trees apparently indigenous are a few alder and willow bushes on the banks of the streamlets.

#### II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Burgh.*—Inverkeithing is a Royal Burgh of a very ancient date. It has a charter from William the Lion, confirming another still older; and James VI., by one dated 1598, recognizes the privileges bestowed by former monarchs, and declares its rights of custom, &c. to extend from the water of Leven on the east, to that of Devon on the west, and as far north as Kinross. Most of these have been sold or disposed of; but there are still retained the duties at the markets held at Kinross and Tulliebole, and the customs at North Ferry passage. Even Edinburgh at one time paid a trifling acknowledgment of superiority for some parts of the Calton-hill, but it was bought up or fell into desuetude. According to the first printed return of the treasurer under the new regulations of burghs, "the funds, property, and effects" of the burgh are valued at L. 7437, 10s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. exclusive of the town-house, jail, and "other property," and the debts at L. 2029. The burgh affairs are at present managed by a provost, two bailies, a dean of guild, a

\* This rustic practice, however, is sometimes not unattended with danger. Once, upon inquiry being made what had become of a patch of hyoscyamus, which had disappeared just as the plants were about coming into flower, information was received that two persons of the common working class had taken the whole up, to make "excellent medicine." Shortly after this, a farm-labourer was met carrying an immense sheaf of digitalis, who, upon being asked, from a humane motive, what he intended to do with it, replied, "to make fine herb-tea for the cold." He was of course informed of the risk of poisoning which he might incur by drinking the said tea.

treasurer, and nine councillors. The constituency of the burgh for parliamentary elections is about 57; for the election of town-councillors, about 26. It sends a Member to Parliament along with Culross, Queensferry, Stirling, and Dunfermline.

By a grant from Queen Mary and Henry Darnley, the ancient family of Henderson of Fordel, having a part of their estate within the parish, held the office of hereditary provost and sheriff; but this right was never exercised. In the ridings of the Scottish Parliament, the provost was entitled to ride next to the provost of Edinburgh. The Magistrates had the power of pit and gallows within their jurisdiction, that is, of inflicting the punishment of drowning or hanging,—in testimony of which, a rising ground facing the town, still bears the name of the Gallow-bank, and there is still in it a Gallow-tower. The court of four burghs, authorized by James III. to draw up a set of mercantile regulations, had their sittings here; and before the convention of burghs was appointed to be held at Edinburgh, Inverkeithing was the usual place of its meeting. The last assemblage of the Culdees took place in the church.

Some battles have been fought here, the last in 1651, by Cromwell's troops against the Scots. There is a tradition that, in the reign of Alexander III. the Jews proposed to establish a fortified commercial city on the Ferry hills, but the design somehow misgave. A document confirmatory of this is said to exist in one of the libraries or public offices in Edinburgh. St Margaret's Hope is so called, because it was the place where Margaret, who afterwards became Queen of Malcolm III., landed during a storm in her flight from England. The adjacent ferry is also named from her, (Buchanan calls it *Margaritæ Portus*,) supposed to be from her frequently using it in her passage to or from the palace at Dunfermline.

*Ferry.*—At this ferry, is a flourishing village inhabited by the boatmen, principally, and much resorted to in summer, as sea-bathing quarters. The piers are unrivalled, and there is an elegant and commodious inn, lately built. In old times, this ferry was subject to the Abbots of Dunfermline, who drew the fortieth penny of passage money to repair their *Quair*, and also one-fourth to supply boats. The present superior of whom the ground of the village is feued, is the Marquis of Tweeddale. Of later years, the right of ferry belonged to neighbouring proprietors, the Earl of Rose-

bery, Dundas of Dundas, &c. to whom a rent was paid, but upwards of twenty years ago, it was vested by act of Parliament in trustees. The rent, under this act, once amounted to L. 2300, but now it yields about L. 1500 only. The currents of the tide here are so peculiar, that, as was proved upon trial when an attempt was made about the beginning of the century to turn off the old boatmen, no sailor, unless brought up upon the passage, can navigate the boats without much delay and risk.

At one time, a visionary project of a tunnel beneath the Frith a little way above the ferry, was entertained; and more lately, another of a chain bridge across it, having Inch Garvie in the middle for an intermediate step. There is at the ferry a battery, at present dismantled, erected after the visit of Paul Jones.

*Eminent Men.*—The settlement of the last incumbent of this parish is a conspicuous event in the history of the church. It took place in 1752, and occasioned the deposition of Mr Gillespie, minister of Carnock, on account of his refusal to attend the meetings of presbytery held for that purpose. This was the origin of the Relief church. The parish has produced no eminent men, unless Admiral Greig, who rose to the chief command of the Russian navy, and died in 1788, is to be accounted one.

*Land-owners.*—The valued rent is L. 6866, 16s. 10d. Scots money, and the proprietors are rated as follows: Earl of Hopetoun, L. 2268; Sir Robert Preston's Heirs, L. 1947, 19s. 4d.; Sir Philip C. H. Durham, G. C. B., L. 750, 16s. 8d.; Rev. John Kellock Cuninghame, L. 482, 19s. 4d.; James Hunt, Esq. L. 425; John Newton, Esq. L. 392, 16s. 11d.; Heritors of Ferry hills, (several) L. 246; John Cuninghame, Esq. L. 159, 14s. 9d.; Marquis of Tweeddale, L. 86, 15s. 1d.; David Peat, Esq., L. 63; Ferguson Sharp, Esq., L. 31, 12s. 6d.; Captain Spittal's Disponees, L. 7; Andrew Tulloch's Heirs, L. 5, 2s. 3d.

*Parochial Registers.* \*—The minutes of session are regular and

\* There are some curious notices of old customs to be found in the old minutes. Money appears to have been often given from the poor's funds, to enable students to prosecute their studies, and there was a fine to the poor on baptisms and marriages, when these took place in the parties' own houses. The session also assumed the power of appointing who should sit in the vacant seats in the church, and it seems to have been acquiesced in. Persons are prohibited from receiving into their houses, or letting houses to those from another parish, who do not bring "*testificates*," and the civil powers are called upon to enforce this. Persons recusant are compelled to appear before the kirk-session, and to submit to the discipline enjoined, under penalty of imprisonment by the magistrates, until they consent to do so.

The exercise of discipline also appears to have been what would at present be accounted rigorous. During the first thirty years of last century, there are instances

without blanks, from 1676 to the present date. The register of baptisms and marriages also extends from 1676 to the present date, though from 1676 to 1698, in the same books with the session minutes, and intermixed with them as they occurred, and with the exception of a blank from 1711 to 1748, caused by the loss of a book, which, according to an entry in the session minutes about 1755, was taken to London as evidence in a law-suit about 1750, and never returned. There is a register of burials from 1702 to 1708, and for 1710, and of testimonials given and received from 1701 to 1711.

*Antiquities.*—On the top of Letham hill, there is what is said to be the remains of a Druidical temple. To uninitiated eyes, it appears to be a few blocks of greenstone, somewhat circularly arranged on the top of a greenstone hill, where such loose fragments of the rock below are to be expected. In the north part of the parish, there is a stone 10 feet high,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  broad, and 1 thick, with rude figures of men and horses cut upon it, but now much defaced, supposed to be a Danish monument. Situated on a small rock, connected by a causeway with the main-land, stands the Castle of Rosyth, noticed in the novel of the Abbot. It is a ruinous square tower, forming the north-east angle of what must have been a pretty large square of buildings. Over the gateway is a mouldered armorial bearing, surmounted by a crown, and M. R. 1561. On the stone bars of the great windows of the hall, which are evidently much more recent than the original loop-holes, is "F \* S" and M \* N"

of persons rebuked before the congregation for swearing, drunkenness, stealing, for not attending public worship, for being out of doors unnecessarily, or carrying water on the Sabbath, for ferrying people across on the Sabbath without an order from the minister, for abusive language or calling names, very frequently women for scolding, once, a man for cursing and striking his wife, and another for consulting a "wizard." An offender, in addition to the usual censures and fine, is ordered to learn to read within a year, under penalty of censure, if he shall be found "deficient in learning." According to order of the Lord Ordinary, there is, in 1701, a guardian of morality appointed in the parish, to put the laws in execution against immorality and profaneness, and there appears to have been a strict system of espionage established in regard to these.

In 1702, there is a named list of the communicants, chiefly females, amounting to seventy-eight in all, and a few years after, a named list of elders, amounting to nineteen. During this period it is customary to mark in the minutes the name of any stranger who may have preached, and very often the subject of his sermon. Even on solemn occasions, decorum was evidently not very strictly observed in those days, as at every sacrament there is a regular entry of a sum of money paid to the town officers "for keeping off the thronge." Many irregular marriages are also recorded.

About 1720, the parish seems to have been in a sad state so far as morality was concerned, and also in the years preceding 1745, both periods of great political excitement. Offenders during the time between these dates were also exceedingly refractory and contumacious, and there appear to be good grounds for concluding that the present generation and their fathers have improved very much upon their ancestors in those days, at least in sobriety and decency of behaviour.

“Anno 1639.” Upon the south side of the Castle near the door is this inscription:—

IN DEV TYM DRAW YIS CORD YE BEL TO CLINK,  
QVHAIS MERY VOCE VARNIS TO MEAT AND DRINK.

There appear to be the remains of a four gun battery on the side of the rock next the sea. This Castle is said by Sir Robert Sibbald to have been the seat of Stewart of Rosyth or Durisdeer, a descendant of James Stewart, brother to Walter, the great Steward of Scotland, and father of Robert II. There is a tradition that the mother of Oliver Cromwell was born in it, and that the Protector visited it when he commanded the army in Scotland. It is now the property of the Earl of Hopetoun. At the place of encampment of Cromwell's troops on the Ferry hills, swords and English coins have been dug up, and cannon shot, almost consumed by rust, have been found near the field of battle. In the North Ferry, there was once a Roman Catholic chapel, founded by Robert I., which was a dependency of the Abbey of Dunfermline, and subsisted till destroyed by the English in 1651. Its ruins still remain, and the burial ground is still in use. Between the ferries is Inch Garvie, on which Sir Archibald Dundas of that Ilk obtained from James IV. leave to build a castle, with important privileges. It was anciently fortified, and used as a state prison, and was repaired and mounted with cannon during the late war. At present, it is abandoned. Besides this building, there is on the west end of the rock, a ruined round tower or redoubt, and on the east end, what is said to be the remains of a battery,—according to tradition, both erected by Cromwell's soldiers. In the burgh there are still houses pointed out as the *town* residences of the Rosebery and Fordel families, and it is asserted that there was even here a palace of David I. An old tenement, named “the Inns,” is said to have been the residence of Annabella Drummond queen of Robert III. By a charter from her husband, the magistrates were to pay to her a hundred shillings a year at the feast of Pentecost. She died here in 1403. The house is exempted from burgh jurisdiction, though in the middle of the town, and is said to contain, among other conveniences, a subterraneous passage to the sea. Numerous vaults and ruins are near it, and the foundations of the “chapel” were lately dug up. These are supposed to have belonged either to the Franciscans or Dominicans, both of whom had once monasteries in the place. When the late church was repaired in 1806, there was found a font made of fine sandstone, which has been placed in the porch of the present church.

Its form is hexagonal, the extreme breadth being a little more than three feet, and, with its pedestal, it is about four feet high. The bowl of it is a sort of hemisphere, two feet broad, and one deep, with a hole of about an inch diameter, pierced through the bottom. It had been carefully buried and surrounded with straw, the remains of which were still beside it, and it contained within the bowl of it a quantity of human bones, probably relics, and an ink-glass. The six angles of it are wrought into a kind of ornamental pillar, and on every one of the six faces, there is the bust of an angel with expanded wings, having on its breast, and supported by its hands, a shield of a triangular form with curved outlines. These shields contain ancient armorial bearings. By persons skilled in heraldry, these are said to be the arms of Scotland; those of David Bruce and Margaret Logie, his queen, or of Robert III. and Annabella Drummond, who were probably reigning when the font was made; those of Gourlay of Kincaig; those of Alderston, the heiress of which married the laird of Kincaig of that time being, or of a Stuart (Rosyth,) a Clerk, a Lindsay, &c.—probably those of Lewis of Menar, or of Loren of Harwood, or of a Fowlis,—the arms of Melville, old Lords of Melville in Fifeshire, or of Craigie of Craigiehall. The difficulty of fixing some of these more precisely arises from the bearings not being coloured or hatched to represent colouring.

The communion cups, dated 1643, are of rather curious form, being narrow and deep, with a long stalk and foot like a wine glass. The workmanship is rude, and they have been made in three pieces, and roughly soldered together. What is remarkable, as shewing the state of the arts at the time, is, that there is a border round the foot, which appears to have been a ribband of metal, figured in a cress, or chased in a rolling machine, then turned round till the ends met, and the ring thus made rudely soldered to the foot of the cup, in the same manner as chased plate brass articles are done in the present day. The silver is whiter and brighter than the most of modern plate.

*Modern Buildings.*—The town is beautifully situated on a rising ground immediately above a small bay adjoining the Frith, with a south exposure. It consists of a main street, and a smaller one branching off it, besides some wynds. There have been many houses built or rebuilt within the last twenty years, so that the place has been considerably extended and improved. It contains a new church, replacing that which was burnt in 1825, a new school-house,

and a grain stock-market, all of most handsome appearance, and a curious and rather lofty stone pillar at the cross; also a town-house, and a Meeting-house belonging to the United Associate Synod. There is a building intended for a Lazarette between Inverkeithing and the Ferry, which, however, had been little used for a dozen of years past, and was sold last year by Government for a trifling sum, having a heavy feu-duty upon it,—the frigate Dartmouth, stationed in St Margaret's Hope, being now employed for the quarantine service in its stead. The buildings in this neighbourhood are of white sandstone or greenstone.

### III.—POPULATION.

According to the return made to Dr Webster this was in	1755,	1694
By an accurate private list made in	1793,	2210
By the Government census	1801,	2228
	1811,	2400
	1821,	2512
	1831,	3189

Of this last return, 1569 are males, and 1620 females.

The number residing in the burgh is 2020, being 978 males, and 1042 females; in the village of North Ferry, 434, being 203 males, and 231 females; in that of Hillend, 279, being 146 males, and 133 females; and in the country part of the parish, 458, being 243 males, and 215 females.

The increase in the number of parishioners between 1821 and 1831 is 677. This great increase may be partly accounted for by the establishment of a large distillery between these periods, but it arose principally from a large influx of labourers employed about 1831, to work in the greenstone quarries supplying materials for the extension of Leith pier, and the erection of the new bridge at Stirling. These quarries being abandoned upon the completion of the works, the labourers and their families have gone elsewhere, and it is supposed that the population is not now so numerous as in 1831.

The number of families was in 1831, 712, of inhabited houses 438, and of other houses, 12. The average number of a family nearly  $4\frac{1}{2}$ .

There are two persons only of independent fortune residing in the parish, and one of them is but a very small proprietor in it. There are no noblemen resident, and but one of the larger heritors. The proprietors of lands in the parish of more than L. 50 rental, are 11 in number.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

There are 25 occupiers of land, employing sixty-eight labourers

or servants, and there are 282 males engaged as retail-dealers, or in handicraft trades, either as masters or workmen.

*Agriculture.*—From the number of heritors in the parish, and the accurate measurement of many of the lands being unknown, and also from the many subdivisions of lands, nothing approaching even to a good approximation of the number of acres in it could be obtained without actual admeasurement, or a very great degree of trouble in collecting information, often inaccurate. It may be stated, however, in general, that almost every piece of ground capable of cultivation is under the plough; that there is but a very small proportion of wood, and that chiefly young; and that there is no pasture excepting a small quantity on the steepest acclivities of the hills. There are no commons. The lowest rent of land in the parish is L. 1, 5s. the highest approaches L. 4, per acre; but as many of the rents are partly in grain, convertible at the fiars' prices, they are of course variable. The average rent is nearer the higher than the lower rate. From the vicinity to Edinburgh, the rate of labour, and the prices of raw produce and manufactures, are regulated by the prices there. The husbandry follows different systems of rotation. The crops raised are, wheat, barley, oats, beans and pease, potatoes, hay, turnips. Much waste land from moss has, of late years, been reclaimed in the upper part of the parish, and there has been a great deal of draining, some of it tile, but the most of the farmers prefer stones, as better, and also more economical. A good many sloop loads of manure are imported from Leith. The leases are almost, without exception, for nineteen years. Many of the farm buildings have lately been erected in the most commodious style; they are almost all good, and the fields are well enclosed with thorn hedges chiefly, though sometimes with stone walls.

*Quarries.*—Greenstone for building, paving, and road-making, is quarried in several places, and often sent off by sea. A good many years ago, great quantities were shipped from the Ferry hills for paving the streets of London; but the granite of Aberdeen is now preferred for that purpose. Sandstone is also quarried in two places, chiefly for exportation coastwise, and limestone in several, for home consumption, or sending to a distance by sea. These are wrought by the aid of gunpowder, wedges, and levers,—the workmen being particular in keeping a face upon the quarry. There are no mines. There are no coal-pits, though there are many closely adjoining in the neighbouring parishes.

*Fisheries.*—The herring fishery in winter was once of great importance, but for several years back it has been all but annihilated. There is a very trifling stake-net salmon fishery.

*Produce.*—No estimate of the quantity of raw produce raised in the parish can be given, for the reasons mentioned above.

*Manufactures.*—There is a large distillery in which whisky is made, both for the English and home markets, by Coffey's patent steam apparatus. There are also two founderies in the parish, where large articles are cast, and steam-engines and other machinery made. There is a tan-work, a ship-building yard, a salt-work, a magnesia manufactory, and a brick-work, where very excellent fire-bricks are made, and also chimney cans of elegant patterns, and other ornamental work, exactly resembling a fine freestone. A mill driven by steam has also been erected for crushing bones for agricultural purposes. These bones are chiefly imported from abroad, and are exported when ground down to supply the consumption of the east coast of Scotland,—little of them being used in the district. There are two mills for making meal and flour, and a barley mill. A considerable number of the usual tradesmen reside in the parish, and also some weavers employed by the damask table cloth-manufacturers of Dunfermline. The distillery employs about 80 men when in operation, the two founderies from 40 to 50, and there are a considerable number of carpenters in the building yard. The usual time of working is ten hours a day; the employments are healthy and the payment good.

*Navigation.*—There are twenty vessels of from 20 to 100 tons burden belonging to the port, employed chiefly in the coasting trade. A considerable number of foreign and English vessels load coal here, and some occasionally bring bark, timber, and bones to be ground down for manure.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There is in this parish, the burgh of the same name, having, as before stated, a population of 2020. It has not much trade, the coal and stone shipped here being brought from the interior parts. The distillery is carried on by a company. The whisky made is chiefly sent to the London market. Fire-bricks, and a little magnesia are also exported; but there are no import or export merchants in the proper sense of the word. There are two villages, North Ferry and Hillend.

*Means of Communication.*—There is in the burgh a principal or assorting post-office, from which bags are daily dispatched

to the neighbouring places and chief towns. At about a mile from the North Ferry the main road sends branches to Torryburn, Dunfermline, and Kirkaldy, respectively running nearly three, and two miles through the parish,—the great north road from which these strike off extending through it for six miles. There are two four-horse coaches, which run every lawful day from Edinburgh through the burgh, one to Perth, and the other to Aberdeen, besides the mail daily. There are two two-horse coaches between Dunfermline and Edinburgh, which pass within a little distance of the burgh. There is also an easy communication from North Ferry by several steam-boats to Leith, Stirling, and intermediate ports. The bridges in the parish are small, the streams being of a trifling description. The fences on the sides of the public roads in several places are certainly not the best in the parish. There is an iron rail-road, made about twenty-five years ago, replacing a wooden one of a much older date, used for conveying coals from Halbeath, and stone to be shipped at the harbour. The length of it is five miles, one of which is within the parish, and three upon the very boundary between it and that of Dunfermline. The harbour is a pretty good one, and may be greatly improved and deepened by the removal of the mud. Vessels of 200 tons burden can load and sail from it at the spring-tides; but it is generally frequented by smaller vessels.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is situated in the middle of the burgh. The town population are all within five minutes walk of it, and the greater part of the country people within two miles; about an hundred may be farther distant; but none farther than three miles except the inhabitants of one family in a small cottage. It was built in 1826, replacing the one which was partly burnt the year before, and is in a good state of repair. No benefactions are on record. The church has a handsome appearance, commodious and elegant within, and ornamented with two rows of pillars running through it, having arches in the style of a Gothic cathedral. There is a very old steeple adjoining the west end of it, containing a large bell and a public clock. The building accommodates nearly a thousand persons. It has only one gallery, opposite the pulpit, which is allotted to the magistrates and council, and four of the principal heritors; but, by the erection of side galleries, which the heritors have pledged themselves to execute when necessary, it would contain about three hundred more, —almost the amount of accommodation legally required for the

whole population of the parish. Nearly the whole of the sittings are free. Two-thirds of them belong to the landward heritors, who give the use of them to their tenants and their servants, and many others. The other third belongs to the burgh, for the use of the inhabitants. An attempt was made to let those of the burgh, but so ill did it succeed, that, in the Treasurer's printed accounts for 1834, the sum received for seat rents, "is stated to be 7s." In the meantime, the people occupy these seats without ceremony. The manse was built in 1798, and has attached to it the usual legal accommodations, a barn, stable, byre, and washing-house. The garden wall is six feet high, with a coping. There was no manse before that date, but only an allowance of L. 40 Scots paid for house rent. There was a small manse of a "but and a ben" in the parish of Rosyth, which was pulled down about thirty years ago,—and at that place there are still the ruinous walls of the church and a considerable space of burying-ground, around it. There are two glebes,—one for each of the united parishes. They originally consisted of about 8 acres, but when excambed about twenty years ago, a greater quantity was given on account of the ground being inferior in quality, so that, including the grass ground, the glebe now amounts to 12½ acres, and might rent for about L. 40. The stipend has been thrice augmented since 1792; the last was in 1823, and is now seventeen chalders, half meal, and half barley, convertible at the county fiars, with L. 10 money for communion elements. It is understood that the free teinds are nearly exhausted. There is a dissenting meeting-house in the town, belonging to the United Associate Synod. The stipend of the minister is L. 130, paid from the seat rents, together with a house, garden, and small grass park. The patronage of the parish is held by Lady Baird Preston, relict of General Sir David Baird, Baronet. The number of families belonging to the Establishment, according to the minister's visitation list, is about 400, containing about 1625 persons,—the usual proportion of whom attend public worship in the church. The communicants are generally about 400. The number of persons in connection with the dissenters residing within the parish is, according to a list of the late incumbent, about 1125. The ministers and the people, both of the Established and the Dissenting churches, maintain a friendly intercourse with each other, and show a good feeling and a Christian spirit. The people in their general character are industrious and active, peaceable and contented, well affected, and much attached

to their ministers, and attend duly upon the public ordinances of religion. That are some Penny a-week Societies for missionary and religious purposes; and there are occasional collections made at the church door for Highland Schools, the India Mission, and other similar objects.

*Education.*—There is a parochial school, in which are taught English, writing, arithmetic, Latin, Greek, French, geography, mathematics, &c. The teacher has the maximum salary; there is a good dwelling-house, and an elegant adjacent school-house. The school fees may amount to about L. 70. There are six private schools, in which the ordinary branches of education are taught, and in which the teachers are supported by the school fees alone. One is a female school for the higher and ornamental branches of education. There is also a Sabbath day school, which meets both before and after public worship, and is supported by subscriptions and collections, and attended by numerous scholars. The expense of education is moderate, being per quarter 3s. for English; 4s. for English and writing; 5s. for arithmetic; 7s. for Latin; and the same for French. The number of scholars attending all these schools is very nearly 400.

*Literature.*—There are three libraries,—a subscription, a circulating, and a congregational one belonging to the dissenters, but none of them contain any great number of books.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The number of poor receiving parochial aid belonging to the Established Church, was, during last year (1835) 43. The accounts of the current year cannot be made up, until the end of it. The allowances given them vary from 6d. to 2s. 6d. per week, proportioned according to their wants. The collections at the church door are upon an average, L. 20 annually, and the subscription or assessment upon the heritors for the year above-mentioned was L. 110, out of which there are L. 10 given to the dissenters in aid of their paupers. There are some small salaries paid to clerks, and church-officers. The heritors pay according to their valued rents.

*Prisons.*—The jail is by no means secure,—several escapes have been made from it. Excepting a vagrant or rioter upon the streets, and that for a night, incarceration in this prison is a rare event. It is superintended by one of the town-officers.

*Fairs.*—There are 5 fairs appointed to be held in this burgh, which were once well attended by dealers in horses, cattle, and merchant's goods; but they are now merely nominal, no business

being done. There is, however, one upon the first week of August, which is frequented in the afternoon by numbers of people from the country districts. There being a horse and a foot race for small prizes given from the funds of the burgh, there is abundance of gingerbread and sweetmeats for sale, as well as drink, with many of which the people regale themselves and their friends in the public houses in the evening.

*Inns.*—Including the back shops of grocers, there are 28 houses in the burgh where spirits may be bought in small quantities, and drunk upon the premises. Two of them only are inns for the reception and entertainment of travellers. In the North Ferry, there are 13 such places, including the great inn, and a secondary one, and in the rest of the parish there are three, making in all 30; but some of these are required to accommodate passengers at North Ferry, and travellers upon the public road from Edinburgh to Perth and Inverness.

*Fuel.*—The fuel is coal of various kinds, procured from different pits, and at the distance of from four to seven miles from the burgh. The price, including carriage, may be from 5s. to 9s. per ton, according to the quality and distance from the colliery.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the Statistical Account in 1793 was published, a remarkable difference has taken place in the parish. The state of agriculture has been greatly advanced, and the general appearance of the town much improved. It is rather against the interest of the burgh, that none of the great heritors reside within the parish. The place is favourable for carrying on manufactories of various kinds, having numerous facilities,—yet no person of capital and enterprise has ever engaged in trade or commerce upon a large and extensive scale. There used to be some years ago, strong political contests in the burgh, which frequently led the parties to the Court of Session, and when these regarded the election of a Member of Parliament, they were sometimes carried to the House of Commons. This arose from the very peculiar set of the burgh. The members of council continued in office during life and residence, and the minority could not be turned out, and their places filled up with more friendly adherents. The struggle between the parties was thus kept up, and maintained with much activity and contentiousness. It is recorded in the session books, in 1720, “that the kirk-session unanimously twice postponed, and finally omitted the celebration of the sacrament at that time,” “on account of the great animositie and disagreement that is in the place.” Several

instances could be given at a latter period of the same political and contentious spirit. Matters are now more quietly and peaceably managed. The burgh and parliamentary elections excite no great interest among the inhabitants.

*November 1836.*

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## PARISH OF AUCHTERTOOL.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. DAVID GUILD, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—*Auchter* is said to be a Gaelic word, signifying a height, and *Tool* seems to be a corruption of *Tiel*, a rivulet which rises in the parish and runs through it; hence *Auchtertool* signifies the higher grounds on the *Tiel*. It does not appear that its name has undergone any alteration from that originally given it.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The parish is about 3 miles long, and about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  wide on the average, comprising 4 square miles, equal to 2570 imperial acres. It is bounded on the north by the parish of *Auchterderran*; on the north-west, by the parish of *Beath*; on the south, by the parishes of *Kinghorn*, *Burntisland*, and *Aberdour*; on the east and north-east, it is at some points conterminous with the parishes of *Kinghorn* and *Abbotshall*.

*Topographical Appearances.*—Its figure is irregular, but approaches nearer to that of a parallelogram than any other regular figure. There is a range of hills at the west end of the parish, commonly called *Cullalo hills*; their acclivity on the south side is very steep, and the elevation of the highest above the level of the sea is 750 feet. In regard to each other, the difference of elevation is inconsiderable.

The climate is temperate and salubrious. The dryness of the soil throughout the most populous part of the parish, its moderate distance from the sea, and its elevation above it, must naturally contribute to its salubrity, and to the healthiness of its inhabitants.

*Hydrography.*—There are springs by which the inhabitants of this parish are abundantly supplied with water; some of these are