

PARISH OF DUNINO.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS AND SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. JAMES ROGER, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name and Etymology.—THE parish of Dunino, pronounced by the inhabitants Dununie, is of more consideration for its antiquity, neighbourhood, and recent rapidity of improvement, than for its extent, or value as a section of its county. The reporter to Sir John Sinclair on this parish first assumes that its name is Den-ino, which it is not; and then proceeds to account for its derivation from words signifying “a village on a large and deep den.” But there has not been, time out of mind, any thing which can be called a village in the parish: and the “den, so deep and large,” is nothing more than the beds which have been formed by two little streams, which after their union are able to turn a saw-mill. For fifty-four years after the commencement of the parochial register in 1643, the name of the parish is uniformly spelt Duynyno, Duynnow, or Dunnonow, the first syllable always being Dun, till 1697, when it was first corrupted into “Dennino.”

The highest eminence in the parish is $1\frac{1}{2}$ furlong north of the church, scarcely 300 feet above the level of the sea, and on which tradition relates there was a nunnery; and the foundation stones of it were removed, twenty-two years ago, during the present minister's incumbency. There is as much evidence that the parish received its name from the nunnery, as can generally be obtained in cases of this kind. The register of the priory of St Andrews, appended to the second volume of Mr Pinkerton's History, and drawn up about the year 1250, shows that the ancient names of places in this parish and neighbourhood are Gaelic. Martine of Clermont, Secretary to Archbishop Sharpe, in his “Remains of St Andrews,” written in 1685, calls the parish of Dunino, “the Rectory of Dunnaucht,” or the hill of young women, evidently referring to the nunnery. The same author gives a copy of a charter granted by the Archbishop of St Andrews, so far back as October 4, 1479,

in which Dunino is called "Dynnenoeh," precisely of the same import.

Situation and Extent.—This parish, including Kingsmuir, approaches to a square form, about 3 miles long, and as many broad. The church is 4 miles south-east of St Andrews, which town is situated North Lat. $56^{\circ} 19' 33''$, and West Long. $2^{\circ} 50'$ from the Observatory at Greenwich. Dunino parish is bounded by St Andrews and Cameron parishes on the north and west; by those of St Leonards and Kingsbarns, on the north-east and east; by Crail parish, on the east and south; and by Carnbee, on the south. It lies 13 miles east of Cupar, the county town; the same distance south-east from Dundee; and 37 miles north of Edinburgh. The highway from St Andrews to Anstruther, an extent of nine miles, bisects the parish, and forms the eastern angle of the peninsula, or provincially, the East Nook of Fife.

Climate.—The effect of the proximity of Dunino to the sea-coast, added to the recent drainage of the ground, the application of calcareous and putrescent manures, the inclosing by stone fences in every part but Kingsmuir, the partial shading by plantation,—and the wind blowing two-thirds of the year from the south-west, and only one-third from the cold north-east,—has been of much advantage not only to the soil, but to the inhabitants. The writer of the former Account mentions that, from thirty to forty years before his time, "scorbutic disorders" prevailed in the parish. These were obviously caused by want of sufficient lodging, clothes, and food. The writer of the former Account, adds, that, in his time, "rheumatism and hysteric complaints were the chief disorders." An instance of rheumatism may no doubt here still occur as in other places; but certainly the complaint is not general. Hysterical affections are here unknown: and intermittent fevers have vanished. Though the chalybeate fountains, eulogized in the former Account, and of which no trace remains, were still available, they would be held useless, from the general health of the present inhabitants.

Geology, Mineralogy, and Hydrography.—The parish of Dunino is situated on the north-east part of the great coal basin of Scotland, supposed to be 90 miles long, and 33 miles broad. It is believed that a square mile of this space will answer the demand yearly. Coal began first to be used in Scotland, near Dunfermline, in Fifeshire, about 1215. On every estate in the parish, are vestiges of coal-working at some former period; and very frequently at the surface, appears bituminous schistus or blaes, denoting

the presence of this mineral. No coal is at present wrought in the parish, from a belief it would not pay the expense; and nothing is more difficult to calculate than the profits of coal-working. The strata unexpectedly may be disturbed by mounds of stone, or may wholly break off or dip beyond reach. Beside the upland path to the church from Bridge-end, there is a projection of disintegrated trap, provincially *ratchel* or rotten-stone; across which, are some narrow vertical veins of felspar. Proceeding up Dunino burn-side southward, a few projections of red sandstone, in regular strata, appear. Farther upward, the bed of the burn becomes limestone, and in that proximity the coping of the ministers' out-field glebe under the surface is also limestone. Here also, a stratum of coal, 3 feet thick, has been discovered 32 feet under the surface, dipping considerably towards the north. The regulation as to finding coal in glebes gives little encouragement to the incumbent. His operations may be suspended by the presbytery or any heritor, till, after paying expenses, he deposit his profits in some bank or other sure place, and have only the interest of his deposit for his pains. Some mineralogists assert that coal under limestone is not good, but under sandstone excellent. Now two-thirds of the rocks in this parish are sandstone, not of a large grit called conglomerate, but small, and often very white, without tinge of ferruginous mixture. The exports from the sandstone quarries of Mylnefield, four miles west of Dundee, have brought to the proprietor large sums of money. The sandstone quarries of Dunino are as durable in the material, finer in the texture, and better coloured than those of Mylnefield. Were these Dunino quarries placed within the county of Middlesex, near the great southern metropolis, their value would be incalculable. Some years ago, on the farm of Tosh, in this parish, on a search for marl, there was discovered a considerable quantity of steatites or soap-rock. Had this mass of steatites been preserved, it would have contributed to form a manufactory of porcelain. A mile east from the junction of the three rivulets alluded to above, as passing through the parish, and on the south bank of their united stream called the Kenly Burn, is a cavity containing excellent specimens of stalactites, or dropstone. Along the shore of the German Ocean, to which the Kenly surrenders its waters, is a mass of marble rock, that would suffice to build three of the largest cities in the empire. There may be seen "*cochleæ marinae*," and other shells imbedded in the limestone rock. A small part of those marble rocks have been

burned into lime, to manure the adjacent fields. When the marble is polished, it presents a beautifully striated appearance of yellow and white, and might be made a lucrative article of commerce. Except on the clay soils of Stravithy Mains and Kingsmuir, where an ochreous mixture is sometimes found, the water in the rest of the parish passing through a sandy soil is excellent. Our fountains in summer are not only cool, but, in their ordinary state, may be compared with those of the most celebrated purity—containing not more than three parts in a thousand of saline particles and vegetable matter. Over the fields of Dunino parish, may sometimes be found agates and chalcedonies, and fragments of light blue whinstone or trap, or of black whinstone or basalt; but there is nothing to throw light on any of the two fashionable theories of geology. Ironstone or hæmatites is not uncommon in the parish. Recently, a person collected forty tons of that mineral from the side of the rivulet which turns Stravithy-mill, and sent it cost free to Newcastle as ballast.

Zoology.—We have all the usual domestic fowls and ordinary birds. Of the two species of Scottish deer, the stag and the roe, only a few of the last mentioned peaceful and timid kind occasionally visit the parish; and so do a few pheasants and foxes. The vast colonies of rabbits described in the former Statistical Account are now nearly extirpated. It appears from an old charter, that, one hundred and fifty years ago, moorfowl abounded in Kingsmuir, but they have been expelled by the progress of agricultural improvement. An attempt was made, a few years ago, to rear a stock of goats of the Angora kind in this parish. They were fed with clover in summer, and with hay and turnips in winter, and were very prolific, the female generally having three kids at a birth. But they were so mischievous in their habits, and their milk in so little request in a healthy district like Dunino, and at a distance from a great town, that in five years they were disposed of as unprofitable. There is abundance of pigeons in the parish, of which the minister has annexed to his benefice the principal dovecot. Before 1617, any person at pleasure might erect a pigeon-house, and probably the minister's dovecot was constructed prior to that period. Afterwards, by law, it was incompetent to build a pigeon-house, unless there was a qualification in the builder, of ten chalders of grain in heritage within two miles of the dovecot, or unless it was purchased from a licensed proprietor. Had it not been for the penalty

of L. 11 Scotch, or 18s. 4d. Sterling, for the first offence of breaking into a dovecot or shooting a pigeon, and double that sum for every subsequent offence, the race had been extinct. Complaints have been made against the acts of Parliament supporting dovecots; but it is with the complaints against pigeons as against crows, people think of the grain devoured, without reckoning on the benefit received. Pigeons pick up much grain that would be lost, may destroy insects in the soil, and certainly feed on wild mustard seed that deteriorates the crop. Sixty-eight pairs, besides keeping up the stock, may furnish yearly an hundred pairs of young to be disposed of at 5d. or 6d. a pair; and pigeon dung is a most valuable manure. It is sown in Persia with the hand over the corn-fields, to great advantage. For the last seven years, the minister of the parish has manured his garden with it not sparingly, but as copiously as with the usual animal or vegetable dung; and not only what is sown or planted prospers generally, but during that space, no instance has occurred of the insect touching the gooseberries. Amidst the modern improvements of conveying speedy intelligence by telegraph, by steam navigation and railroads, it is singular that the plan of letter-carrying by pigeons has not been attempted in Britain, so common at the present day in oriental countries. It is well known that a pigeon when young can easily be domesticated. The Turks of Aleppo, in Syria, carry on a correspondence with the city of Alexandria in Egypt, with our common domestic pigeons of bluish plumage. They are conveyed in cages to show them the route; the letter is rolled up under their wing, and in an hour, barring accidents, the pigeon courier arrives at his home destination, over a space which would require four days travel to a human express.

From experiments made by the writer of these pages, he has reason to believe, that hares never go far from their native spot. The same observation applies to blackbirds, and perhaps to game of every kind. The redbreast, supposed by some to migrate during the warm months, lives in the minister's garden all the summer over.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

All the Scottish historians assert, that, on the land-side of St Andrews, was a large district, called "Cursus Apri," or the Boar's chace, and there is a considerable village, three miles east of that town, still called Boarhills. One of the old names of St Andrews, too, was Mucross, the promontory of the Boars. John Major re-

lates, that the boar's chase was conferred by Alexander the Brave, about the year 1107, on some religious establishment in St Andrews; and Martine of Clermont describes this space as what would now amount to from eight to nine English miles long, and from six to seven miles broad. It may appear strange that this forest was permitted so near the gates of a city, the primacy of the kingdom. Dr Southey, in his *Travels through Spain*, mentions a "Sierra de Busaco," a desert about Busaco, of four miles circuit, to preserve the solemnity of the enclosed religious establishment; and Cæsar, in his sixth book of the wars of Gaul, states, that, in Germany, it was usual to have a wilderness round every city, to avoid a sudden incursion of the enemy. Perhaps reasons more probable than either of the above might be assigned why this waste was allowed to remain so near St Andrews. The bishop of that diocese could cultivate no part of this "Cursus Apri" before he had a grant of it from King Alexander, as, prior to this, it might be royal hunting ground; and part of it that was cultivated, undeniably, as appears from the chartulary of Aberbrothock, paid stipend to the Culdees of Iona. Beside this, at the time of the grant, the diocese of St Andrews not only included many of the most fertile parts of Fife, Angus, and Mearns, East and West Lothian, and the Carse of Gowrie, but twenty-seven Scottish nobles held their lands as its vassals. The Bishop of St Andrews, who was but a liferenter, might consider the agricultural improvement of the "Cursus Apri" as a matter of very inferior consequence. In 1244, one hundred and thirty-seven years after the royal grant, some agricultural stir had arisen in the "Cursus Apri," then held by the Archdeacon of St Andrews of his superior, the Bishop. This waste extended farther south than the parish of Dunino, and included it; and the register of the priory of St Andrews, among other places in this vicinity within the "Boar's chase," mentions the following now belonging to this parish, namely, "Indunnenochen," certainly Dunynach or Dunino.—"Balcately," now Balcaithly; "Bale," now Bely; "Pittendruch and Strathfatha," now Pittendruch and Stravithy; "Kinaldin," now Kinaldy. Pittairthy, Kingsmuir, and Primrose, are of far later origin.

Dunino had become a parish in 1458, according to Maitland's *History*, "when it was annexed by Bishop Kennedy to support a collegiate church in St Andrews." It must have, however, been afterwards disjoined from the college church, now called St Leonards; yet there are still two farms belonging to that parish, and

unconnected with any other part of it, on the north-east border of Dunino.

The parish of Dunino was once much more extensive than at present. It contained the estate of Bonnyton adjoining on the north, and which lately rented at L. 530 a-year; and it contained on the west, the farm of Brighton, containing 222 acres imperial, and worth now L. 300 annually. Of late years, it has been contended by Mr Hannah, proprietor of Kingsmuir, that his property, consisting of 844 acres Scotch, does not lie in Dunino parish, but in that of Crail. This theory has not the slightest foundation. Kingsmuir had originally belonged to the Earl of Fife, but was forfeited to the Crown. It was bestowed by James V. on a gentleman, for assisting to carry military stores to France, about the year 1540; and in 1600, there is an infestment in favour of the same gentleman's family. Latterly, Kingsmuir became part of the town's revenue of Crail, and afterwards was purchased by the town's revenue of Leith. It became again the property of the Crown, and, posterior to the Restoration, was gifted by Charles II. to a follower of his fortunes, Colonel Borthwick, and who, in 1683, is stated, by the kirk-session register, as also proprietor of the estate of Dunino. In 1710, according to Sir Robert Sibbald, it was wholly waste. In 1727, according to the presbytery record, it contained but four families, the pastoral care of which people was then annexed by the presbytery to the parish of Dunino. This pastoral charge has since been twice repeated by the presbytery, the last time so recently as the year 1829. The poor in Kingsmuir have been regularly supported by the parish of Dunino. The father and uncle of the present proprietor of Kingsmuir, in eleven of their leases, assert that Kingsmuir lies in Dunino parish; and in a part of Kingsmuir sold by them to the then proprietor of Balcaithly, it is declared thrice in the charter of conveyance, that Kingsmuir is situated in Dunino parish, and there is no opposite evidence whatever. The present proprietor of Kingsmuir's name is inserted in the baptismal register of Dunino. A few years ago, the heritors of Dunino raised an action before the Court of Session against the proprietor of Kingsmuir, to find the property, *quoad temporalia*, in the parish of Dunino, and both the Outer and Inner House decerned in favour of the heritors. At last, weary of the contest, both parties withdrew, each paying his own expenses. But neither the United College of St Andrews, who are patrons of Dunino parish, nor the minister of Dunino, had any

hand in the withdrawal; and they are determined to retain Kingsmuir as part of Dunino parish, which, in case of a new augmentation, has funds to benefit the church living, at least L. 60 a-year.

Parochial Registers.—When the restoration of Presbyterian government was ratified by Parliament in 1641, parochial registers were recommended to be kept. From April 30, 1643, in a regular series to the present period, there are eight volumes of parochial records in tolerable preservation. There is a register of deaths since the year 1752. For many years after 1643, nearly the whole heritors and principal tacksmen were elders,—an example worthy of imitation at the present day. The office of the elders was no sinecure, nor were they shy of using their authority. It appears that they were not only the protectors of good morals, but assumed a civil and criminal jurisdiction. In 1660, two men and four women were convicted on their own confession, of “promiscuous dancing,” that is, of dancing together at a marriage. They escaped with being “sharplie rebuked;” but the poor piper John Moore, from the next parish of “Carnbie,” who acted as minstrel on that occasion, was obliged “to put his hand to the pen,” not to repeat the offence, “under a penalty toties quoties,” which would now be equivalent to a couple of pounds Sterling. Moreover, on the following Sunday, “he was humbled on his knees before the pulpit in face of the congregation,” in public penance for his conduct. In 1649, “Alexander Brune was put into the *joggs* from the second bell to the last bell before sermon on forenoone, and afterwards entered on the place of repentance for the sin of uncleanness with Elpeth Berown.” Though it be stated in the record, that during the above period, the Presbytery on several occasions issued their pastoral admonitions against prevailing vices, yet delinquencies were frequently brought before the kirk-session, which would be deprecated in these latter and less zealous days. Weavers are sometimes cited for carrying home their webs to their customers on Sundays, and millers are cited for grinding corn, and reapers for cutting down corn on that holy day. In 1652, the kirk-session of Dunino not only acted as civil and criminal judges, but were patrons of the parish, and settled the minister. Thus, May 30th of that year, it is stated in the record, “that after the afternoon’s exercise, the minister intimated out of the pulpit to the people, that the elders had nominate and chosen unanimously, Mr Alexander Edward, Regent in the Old Colledge, to be minister of

their said parish ;” and, accordingly, on Wednesday, 13th October following, the presbytery did meet at the church, “for admission of Mr Alexander Edward to the function of the ministrie, and they did admit him.” Notwithstanding the active oppression of Archbishop Sharpe in Fifeshire for eighteen years, no county in Scotland was more zealous for Presbyterianism against Episcopacy; and during that period, according to Wodrow’s history, the inhabitants of “Dunyno,” for their opposition, were fined in a sum that would now be equal to L. 1200 Sterling.

Eminent Men.—John of Fordun, author of the *Scotichronicon*, the oldest Scottish historian, is said to have resided for a considerable time in this parish,—which is the more probable, that he was a native of St Andrew’s diocese, of which Dunino formed a part. He spent much of his time in journeying. He travelled over the three kingdoms, in quest of information; and his history may be called that of the world, as well as of Scotland. *

John Winram, Subprior of St Andrews under the excellent and comely Lord James Stuart, eldest of the three illegitimate brothers of Mary Queen of Scots,—after the celibacy of the clergy had been done away by the establishment of the reformed faith—was married to the widow of the proprietor of Kinaldy, in this parish. Both Knox and Buchanan assert, that Mr Winram was appointed by Cardinal Beaton to preach a sermon in the church of St Andrews, on occasion of condemning to death the pious Mr Wishart. Knox gives notes of the sermon, and Beaton was offended at Winram treating a heretic more mildly than he thought a heretic deserved. Buchanan in his history, gives Winram an appropriate text, which he must have had from report, as it is not to be found in Scripture.

Mr James Wood, who, according to the parish record, “as minister of Dunonow, preached his valedictorie sermon, May 10, 1646,” previous to his becoming minister of St Andrews, was one of the Commissioners who brought over from the continent, King Charles II., at the era of the Restoration. Mr Wood is said to have been the brother of the proprietor of Stravithy.

Land-owners.—The heritors of the parish are as follows, in the orders of their valued rents: Mr Douglas of Dunino and Balcaithly;

* His reflections on the fair part of the creation, arising from the marriage of King David II. with Miss Logie, whose dispositions were the counterpart of her beautiful face, and handsome person, are very unchivalrous, “*femina fax Satane, rosa fetens, dulce venenum.*”

Mr Cleghorn of Stravithy; Mrs Mouat of Pittairthy; Mr Purves of Kinaldy; Mr Hannah of Kingsmuir, and the Kirk-session of Elie on the south coast. All those properties have come into the possession of the families of the present land-owners, within the last thirty-two years, save Pittairthy, Kingsmuir, and Primrose. It is said that Pittairthy, forfeited to the Crown, was sold by Royalty to the Earl of Glencairn, and has continued in a younger branch of that illustrious family till the present day. Kingsmuir has been at least eighty-one years in the family of Mr Hannah. Primrose was a section sold from Balcaithly, within the last forty-six years.

Antiquities.—Until within the last few years, there were three war castles or fortalices in the parish. One was on the east of it, overhanging the south bank of the Kenly, called the Castle of Draffan, supposed to have been built by the Danes, who often invaded the east coast of Fife, and slew one of the Scottish kings at Crail. The second was the Castle of Stravithy, a little west from the centre of the parish. It is described by Sir Robert Sibbald as entire, about a hundred and twenty-seven years ago; it was a regular fortalice, situated in a bog with ditch and drawbridge—and, according to the son of a feuar who lived hard by, was surrounded with ornamental walks and lofty trees, some of which trees at present remain. The bog has been drained, and the site of the castle been converted into corn-land. The third is the Castle of Pittairthy, built on a declivity towards the south part of the parish, and commanding a wide prospect of the German sea. Though it has long been unroofed and unrepaired, it may defy the assault of the elements for centuries to come. This structure appears to have been erected at two separate periods. The west or first built is a large square tower, the date of erection uncertain. Near the west top, was a keep or donjon, very common in those military abodes, with a strong iron grating across an opening in the wall, to serve for a window. The whole under part is vaulted, which probably served for cellars, kitchen, and bed-rooms. The upper part of the castle is perforated with holes, by which to annoy the besiegers. The east or modern part, according to the inscription on it, was built in 1653, by Sir William Bruce of Kinross. It contained only a baronial hall, and two sleeping apartments, stone-paved.

About one furlong and a third north of the church, on Dunino Law, from which it has been shown the parish probably derives its name, the ruins of a nunnery were dug up and removed in the

year 1815. The height of the walls is unknown, but the structure consisted of unhewn stones, cemented with mortar, instead of lime. The internal space was formed into two divisions, and the door fronted the east.

There are three stones nearly close to the west wall of the minister's garden, which seem to have been part of a Druidical circle. This is rendered probable by several circumstances. There, the rising sun may be seen; and a few yards westward, is part of a sandstone rock artificially tubulated, in which, tradition relates that the priests of the Druid faith collected dew on the first day of May or *Bel-tien*, and sprinkling the people, pronounced a blessing on them from the God of Fire, that is the sun in the firmament, which they ignorantly worshipped. A short mile westward is a farm mentioned in the register of the priory of St Andrews in the thirteenth century, still called *Pittan-druidh*, the grave of the Druids, vulgarly *Pittendriech*.

From the chartulary of Aberbrothock, it appears that, in 1242, Stravithy estate, in this parish, paid stipend to the Culdees at Iona, and afterwards to some disciples of the Romish faith, which appears to have continued at Dunino, notwithstanding the zeal of presbyteries, till near the Union. For within the last ten years, some copper coins of Charles I. and II., and William and Mary, were found in a grave in the churchyard, which money, it is supposed, had been destined to pay the passage of the party interred, out of purgatory.

Twenty years ago, two coins, one gold, and the other silver, struck in the reign of Philip II. of Spain, were dug up, the one in the parish, the other in the neighbourhood. Both of these coins had probably been brought by the vessels of the Armada that were stranded on the coast of Fife. They were sent to an eminent antiquary in Dundee.

In spring 1836, in a field belonging to Balcaithly, in this parish, there was torn up by the plough an urn containing probably the reliques of some Roman chief.

III.—POPULATION.

In 1798, the population, judging from the records of baptisms, was 388, same as in 1831.

1800,	-	-	-	926
1805,	-	-	-	820
1811, 140 males and 167 females,	-	-	-	total, 307
1821, 151 do.	192 do.	-	-	342
1831, 188 do.	200 do.	-	-	388

The annual average of births, &c. for 1834 and six years preceding, was as follows :—

Births,	-	117
Marriages,	-	37
Deaths,	-	37

There are 71 persons occupied in agriculture, and but 15 in retail trade and handicraft. There are 99 males above twenty; 12 beyond seventy; and 1 nearly ninety. Within the last twenty years, 2 died above ninety. There are 78 families living in 74 houses, at very nearly 5 in a family. Two new houses are in the progress of building, and there is no uninhabited house. There are no blind or deaf in the parish; and three, a man, woman, and child, in separate families, are insane.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

The parish of Dunino may be described as wholly agricultural. A corn-mill stands on the estate of Stravithy; and it may be noticed, that the roof of the mill is supported by oak rafters that once covered Cardinal Beaton's proud castle at St Andrews. This corn-mill is of powerful operation, and skilfully manufactures into meal, at 10d. Sterling, a boll of oats of the old Scottish measure. Within seventy years, there were five corn-mills in the parish, one on every estate save Kingsmuir, to which all the farmers were bound for multure. These astrictions are now unknown.

The extent of the different properties in the parish in Scotch acres, and the rent in the year 1836, may be found in the following tables :

	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Plantations.</i>
Dunino and Balcaithly,	1310	130
Stravithy,	700	130
Pittairthy,	187	None
South Kinsaldy,	175	10
Kingsmuir,	844	None
Primrose,	96	Do.
Glebe,	23	Do.
Total acres,	3275	270

Rent of the parish in 1836, in Sterling money :

Dunino and Balcaithly	-	-	-	-	L.1363	0	0
Stravithy,	-	-	-	-	927	0	0
Pittairthy,	-	-	-	-	250	0	0
South Kinsaldy,	-	-	-	-	237	0	0
Kingsmuir,	-	-	-	-	300	0	0
Primrose,	-	-	-	-	17	0	0
Glebe,	-	-	-	-	28	0	0
					L.3122	0	0

Real rent in 1793, according to Sir J. Sinclair's statistics, 1157 0 0

Increase in forty-three years, L.1965 0 0

As Kingsmuir lay waste in the seventh year of Charles II. when

Cromwell's prior valuation was fixed as the standard of estimation,—deduct from L. 3122, the present rent of the parish,—the present rent of Kingsmuir, and the balance is L. 2822; so that the rent of Dunino parish has increased above fourteen times in 169 years,—the valued rent in Scotch money being L. 2334, 6s. 8d., or L. 194, 10s. 6½d. Sterling.

The plantations have increased since the former Account was drawn up, 210 acres; and, deducting 120 acres for ground still waste that may be cultivated, 2444 acres have been added to the cultivated soil.

The value of live-stock on the farms, including horses, black-cattle, sheep, swine, and poultry in 1836, amounted to L. 5670; implements of husbandry, including eleven thrashing machines, L. 1800; total, L. 7470. Value of stock forty-three years ago, L. 2476; increase, L. 4994.

Kind and value of the crop for the year 1836, as under :

Wheat,	-	-	-	-	L.2105	0	0
Barley,	-	-	-	-	1828	0	0
Oats,	-	-	-	-	2723	0	0
Pease and beans,	-	-	-	-	505	0	0
Potatoes,	-	-	-	-	1229	0	0
Turnips,	-	-	-	-	765	0	0
Grass,	-	-	-	-	2076	0	0
Flax, 64 stones at	-	-	-	-	46	0	0
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					L.11272	0	0
Annual produce of crop in 1793,					2596	0	0
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Increase in forty-three years,					L.8676	0	0

It is stated in the former Statistical Account, that the soil is “adapted chiefly for oats and barley;” but there is now raised more value of wheat than barley, and the quality is excellent. The fiars for wheat were first struck in 1649, as appears by the Sheriff-Court books of Fife; and that year, the boll of wheat was so high-priced as L. 1, 0s. 1¼d. Sterling. The Chevalier barley, as well as the common kind, is in general use; but though estimable for its great weight, it is costly, by requiring a rich soil, and hazardous in late seasons, requiring six weeks longer to mature, after sowing than ordinary barley. In 1643, by the Fife fiars, a boll of “bear” was 10s. Sterling. Several sorts of oats, as the Drummond and Tartar kind, are tried. The potato oats, from their speedy arrival at maturity, bid fair to be preferable. The boll of “aits and meall,” by the Fife fiars in 1643, was 8s. 4d. Sterling. Flax is nearly discontinued in the parish, and will be so generally, when calcareous manures are introduced. Cotton, too, in many respects, supplies the use of flax at a much cheaper rate;

and where linen is wanted, fabrics of that kind from Ireland can be purchased at a far lower price by the farmer, than by home manufacture. Every advantage which can be derived from good agricultural seeds is studied. The eleven thrashing-mills and other implements of husbandry are generally of the best construction.

The breed of black-cattle, neat-limbed, horned, and of a dark colour, common at Dunino and over the county, and called the Fife breed, is celebrated. This race is known to have originated from the bounty of James VI. of Scotland. That monarch, on his accession to the English throne, had drawn largely on his former neighbours at Falkland, to support his royal dignity; and to remunerate them, he selected and sent down a race of excellent black-cattle, from the early cultivated region of south Britain, which have been improved for two centuries, in the luxuriant pastures of Fifeshire. At Dunino, cattle of the yellow or spotted Ayrshire breed, may also be found; but the Fife breed is most approved for fast feeding in grass parks, during summer, and the cows of that race are distinguished as milkers. In the parish, about 190 sheep of the Linton and Biggar or Northumberland breed, are fatted for the owners' tables, or sold to the butchers in the neighbourhood.

Except in Kingsmuir, there are only two farms under L. 50 of rent, the rents of the other farms running from L. 100 to nearly L. 600. On Kingsmuir, the rents of farms proceed in a regular gradation from L. 5 to L. 33. A domain like Kingsmuir, beginning to emerge into agricultural importance, may be well cultivated as at present by small tenants. A man and his family with twelve acres will raise far more corn and cattle in proportion, than he who rents ninety-six acres, because he must employ strangers to assist him. A tacksman on a large scale on the east part of Kingsmuir has recently exhibited such proofs of enterprise, as to show, that if he and a few other similar tacksmen had the whole 844 acres in their hands, they would improve them, more quickly at least, than small tenants. Seventy years have not elapsed since the best farmers here had but a thin partition between their bedrooms and bestial. Now, the principal tenantry either inhabit houses of two stories, or a handsome house of one storey; in both cases, with a suitable establishment of offices. Straw roofs for cottages are going into disuse, and slate or tile roofs are generally adopted.

The great promoter of agricultural improvement in the parish

FIFE.

• A A

of Dunino, was the public-spirited Sir William Areskine of Torry, predecessor and relative of Captain Areskine Wemyss, at present Member of Parliament for the county of Fife. About 1767, Sir William, as proprietor of the estate of Dunino, made the same felicitous attack on the asperities of the soil, as he had previously done on the rebels in America. In Sir Robert Sibbald's description of Fife, which was published about 1710, he says, when you come to the east moors of Fifeshire, by which he meant Kingsmuir, the first place which attracts attention is the castle of Stravithy; Dunino estate, Sir Robert Sibbald held unworthy of notice. At this period, the conterminous heritors had a right "to dig seal and divot" on Kingsmuir, and to "pasture their cattle;" which usages were bought up, by granting them sections of land in recompense. The rest of the parish, like Kingsmuir, lay open and uninclosed, and the whole bestial of the forty-four farms, in addition to those of Kingsmuir, were in autumn sent forth, as at present in Iceland, for promiscuous pasture,—though the act of James VII. had existed for ninety years, prohibiting such destructive practice. It was in this state of agricultural barbarity, that Sir William Areskine commenced his operations. He enclosed his whole estate with substantial stone fences five feet high; and ditches along side of them were superadded. He introduced wheat, potatoes, and turnips; and these two latter crops were so scarce in the east of Fife, that at night they were plundered, like apples from an orchard. The horses were shod not only as formerly on the fore feet, but also on the hinder feet. Metal plates were appended to the timber ploughs, as mould boards; the cart wheels of solid wood were abandoned; recourse was had to the saddler, instead of the flax-dresser, for harness; large stones which impeded agricultural operations were removed from the fields; the crooked ridges were made straight; and plantations were formed to shelter the higher grounds. For some years the tacksmen of Dunino were looked up to, as presenting to the public, experimental farms.

Such an example was not lost. The properties of Kinaldy, Pittairthy, Balcaithly, and the most of Stravithy, have been inclosed with stone fences, and in general substantially drained. The empire of bog-plants is on the wane, and the parish, described in the former Account as "wet and spongy," will soon, in every part, deserve the opposite character. The rents, as has been shown, are moderate; the tenants are in good terms with

their landlords; and one tenant occupies the farm entered upon by his grandfather seventy years ago. The loss by corn-merchants is a theme on which some farmers dwell. Here, there is a persuasion, that, without corn agents, farming would be at a stop.

Ninety-one years ago, at the time of the last Rebellion, the scanty crops raised at Dunino could scarcely find market. There was no wheat, and the oats were kept for support of the family; the barley or rather bear was given, the one-half for rent, and the other half of the rent was paid by cattle. One-fourth of the bear was given in kind to the brewer in the parish, for beer to the family, and the other fourth was sold for cash either to him, or to some of the thirty-three brewers in St Andrews, to buy gin or brandy, which then and long after, were delivered in large quantities from contraband ships on the coast. What clothes the family of the farmer required were manufactured by themselves. A great part of business was transacted by barter.

Plantations.—The plantations in the parish, wherever formed, are prosperous. Those beside the two streamlets consist of a variety of hard-wood trees. The other plantations are of larch or Scotch fir. Some parts of the plantations have of late been cut down; but it is hoped they will soon be replaced by a new stock.

Valued Rent.—The valued rent of Stravithy estate is somewhat larger than that of Dunino apart from Balcaithly, to which it is now united; so that in the 7th of Charles II., the property must have been superior. It fell in the rear by Sir William Areskine's improvements; but the active skill of the present proprietor has well nigh raised it to its former pre-eminence,—though the soil be often less grateful than that of Dunino estate, which is sandy or alluvial,—whereas the other is in many places rather a stiff clay. The proprietor of Dunino deserves praise for the handsome accommodation he has afforded, and is still affording, to his tenantry, and the proprietor of Stravithy for his flourishing plantations, the drainage of his fields, and the handsome cottages he has erected, for the servants of his principal tacksman. The proprietor of Kinaldy, on the northern part of his estate, separated from this parish only by a rivulet, has erected a splendid establishment of farm buildings.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Dunino possesses good public roads, and near markets. There

is a turnpike road crossing the parish from St Andrews to Anstruther, which are both sea-ports—and have both a weekly market for grain—the distance from four to five miles. Yearly, there are 15 horse and black-cattle fairs, within seven miles. We are surrounded by post-offices; one is within three, another four, and another five miles. Other three post-offices are within seven miles. There is a curriole which plies thrice a week across the parish, from Anstruther to St Andrews. From St Andrews to Cupar, the county town, a distance of eleven miles, two coaches run weekly; in a like space, they go twice to Dundee, the same distance as Cupar. The fuel used in the parish is coal, which may be found sea-borne at either of the adjacent towns above-mentioned, or at the coal mines in the interior of the country, not more distant than those towns.

Inns.—There are two inns in the parish, which are sources of no intemperance.

Ecclesiastical State.—The stipend of Dunino was augmented in 1709. About forty-two years ago, Dr Brown, then incumbent, received a considerable addition. The former and present minister received also an augmentation, and the living, beside the stipend victual payable by the fiars, includes 63 old Scotch bolls, half oatmeal and half barley, at L. 85, 13s. 1d. of surrendered teind, which, with a manse and offices erected about fifteen years ago, and 23 acres of glebe, may amount to L. 260 a year. The present incumbent, Mr Roger, is the eighth minister of the parish since 1697, when Mr Knox, a relative of the great Reformer, John Knox, was inducted into office. The church of Dunino was built in 1826, and is a neat Gothic edifice, with an altar-window in the west gable. It contains thirty-two pews, designed for six sitters in each, but might hold seven, in all 224. The area in the church has been divided by the sheriff as under:—The patron, the United College of St Andrews, had the first choice, the minister next, and the heritors according to their valued rent. The parochial schoolmaster has a pew, and all the other pews are proportionally annexed to the estates, and divided among the farmers and their dependents, excepting eight pews in front of the pulpit and adjoining, which are let by the kirk-session, and these form the sacred tables at the communion season. The number of communicants generally is from 130 to 160; but upwards of 200 have been known to communicate. The church is centri-

cally situated; and there are but two or three families of Seceders.

Poor's Funds.—The poor's revenue at Dunino requires no long recital. There is but a single pauper on the kirk-session fund, at 2s. a-month; but the heritors have, since autumn 1834, contributed, according to their valued rent, L. 6, 4s. 5d. to support other four paupers, at 2s. or 3s. a-month each, as circumstances require, with an additional boon out of this sum to buy coals. The kirk-session fund consists of the following items: a small sum for church seat-rent; a tax on the use of the mortcloth, and the proclamation of marriage banns; penalty on illegitimate births in certain cases (and two illegitimate births occur perhaps twice in three years;) the proceeds from collections at the church door, and from money deposited at interest,—forming a small total annually of about L. 9, 8s. 7d. From this little capital fall to be paid, besides the pauper, the session-clerk, precentor, kirk-officer, the synod and presbytery clerk, and presbytery officer. Thus the provision for the poor, and for the whole kirk-sessional business of the parish, does not exceed L. 15, 13s. a-year.

*Education.**—There has never been but one parochial school in

* According to the parish register in the year 1643, a declaration was issued by the Presbytery of St Andrews, to be published in every parish within their bounds, and which was confirmed by the General Assembly, the tenor whereof follows: "That the woful ignorance, rudeness, stubbornness, incapacity seen among the common people, proceed from want of schools in landward, and not putting bairns to school where they are—therefore it is ordained that all possible means be used, that there be a school in every congregation, and that where there is one already, every one that hath children put them to school, if past seven years old—if the parents be poor, that the kirk-session take order for paying the schoolmaster either out of the poor's box, or by a quarterly collection—but if the parents be able, then let them be obliged both to send their bairns when the session gives order, and not to remove them till the Session be acquainted." In the spirit of this wise declaration, it is said in the register, that "Tuesday, 6th June 1643, the minister, with the heritors of the parish and elders of the session, did convene at the kirk: there was lent out of the box for advancement to Mr James Richardson, reader, for bypast service, 108 merks," (that is, L. 6, Sterling;) "As also it was ordained that Mr James should beginne his school on Moonday next, and that he should have a hundredth pound a year," (that is, L. 8, 6s. 8d. Sterling,) "and that the same should be payed to him at two terms in the yeir, viz. Whitsunday and Martinmasse." Whatever the school fees were, this was a handsome salary; for, being twenty-four years before the seventh year of Charles II., when the valued rent taken by Cromwell was confirmed as the standard of valuation, the L. 100 Scotch in the parish might be equal to L. 1400 Scotch now, or L. 116, 13s. 4d. After the act passed in the reign of William III. 1696, "settling a school in every parish not already provided, by advice of the heritors and minister," leaving out the kirk-session,—Mr Dick was schoolmaster of Dunino for twenty years, from 1698 to 1718, whose salary was the maximum then allowed by law, or L. 11 2s. 2½d. Supposing his salary twelve times the present nominal amount, it would reach to L. 133, 6s., that is L. 16, 12s. 8d. more than Mr Richardson's. In addition to this, provisions during Mr Dick's time were generally cheap, and his school fees enormous. Though in 1698, according to the Fife fiars register, the oatmeal a

the parish. It is centrally situated, and but a few yards from its original site. The scale of fees, formed in 1805, has been continued to the present schoolmaster, who succeeded his brother, the author of "Anster Fair." His salary is the maximum; and this, with L.3, as session-clerk, dues on proclamation of banns of marriage, granting certificates of character to those removing from the parish, and keeping the register of births—added to the school fees, and a neat new dwelling house and garden, may amount to L. 60 a year. There is nobody in the parish above seven years old, untaught to read; and there are but few grown up persons who cannot also write. The desire of knowledge is ardent. There are several copies of the Bible in every house. Some new publications visit the parish; and at present there are read in it weekly nine different newspapers.

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boll was 15s. Sterling, during the rest of his incumbency, the price of it ran from 3s. 4d. to 11s. 8d. Sterling a boll; butcher meat sold at 1½d. per pound; and a tailor wrought at 2d. a day. The parish register shows that the lowest quarter fee then was 1s. 3d., which would have required the pay of more than seven and a half days of an ordinary tradesman, or 9s. 4½d at present, which in most cases would be equal to a prohibition of attending school. In 1805, two years after the new act in favour of parochial schoolmasters was framed, a schoolmaster of Dunino, a licentiate of the Scottish church, qualified not only to teach the ordinary branches of education, but French, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, had the school fees raised to him, which had declined by the gradual influx of money into the kingdom. The quarter fee for English reading was made 2s.; for writing, 3s.; for arithmetic, 3s. 6d.; and for Latin, 4s.