

PARISH OF LOGIE.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. ANDREW MELVILLE, MINISTER.

L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name of this parish is supposed to be Gaelic, signifying *a hollow among hills*. This is descriptive of the place in which the church is situated. The name *Logie* is frequently conjoined with some other name or epithet, referring probably either to something peculiar in the situation of the place, or to some person particularly connected with it;—as *Logie Almond*, *Blair Logie*, *Logierait*. This parish was anciently called *Logie Murdoch*.

Extent, Boundaries, &c.—Its length is nearly 4 miles, its breadth from 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$, and consequently it contains from 4 to 5 square miles. Its figure is an irregular oblong, bounded on the east by the parishes of Forgan and Leuchars; on the south, by Leuchars and Dairsie; on the west and north, by Kilmany. It occupies the south-eastern extremity of that range of high land which, rising to the northward of Stirling under the name of the Ochil hills, stretches eastward, gradually sinking in elevation, till it terminates in the plain, which bounds the bay of St Andrews between the Frith of Tay and the estuary of the river Eden. Its surface is irregular and hilly. But none of the hills rise to more than 500 or 600 feet above the level of the sea. The highest, which is in the east end of the parish, is called *Inchlawhill*, about 5 miles from the shore of the German ocean.

Meteorology.—No accurate meteorological accounts have been kept here. The air is colder, the snow falls deeper and lies longer than in the adjacent low country, but not so much as materially to retard the operations of agriculture in spring, or the ripening of the crops in autumn. The prevailing wind in spring, and in the beginning of summer, is east and north-east, frequently dry but cold, and hurtful to vegetation; blowing probably from the snow-clad mountains of Norway, and not much softened by its short pas-

sage across the German ocean. As in most parts of the eastern coast of the lowlands of Scotland, less rain falls here than on the western coast. This seems to arise from the rainy clouds which the south-west wind brings from the Atlantic ocean, being emptied before they reach this side of the Island, and there being no land sufficiently high to attract the clouds. The rainy point is the south-east.

Geology.—The rock of which the hills are composed, is chiefly what in common language is termed whinstone. The highest hill, however, is an insulated mass of porphyry of a reddish yellow colour, apparently resting upon a bed of whinstone. There are several other similar masses of the same species of rock, in the same range of hills to the westward. In the low ground to the north of this hill, there is a singular bank or table-land of sand, which was formerly surrounded by a marsh or lake; but this is now converted into arable land by draining. The top of this bank of sand is a dead level of at least 60 acres. It is of a circular form; and the sides, except on the east, are steep, and rise to a height of 70 or 80 feet. There are similar banks in the neighbourhood, but none of them are so well defined as this. They have very much the appearance of having been formed by water, and speculators in geology suppose that the low ground here has been covered by a lake of fresh water, in which these banks of sand were formed. They conjecture that the shore of the sea was much farther east than it is now, and as St Abbs Head, the Bell Rock, and the Redhead near Arbroath, are composed of the same species of red sandstone, they are probably points in what was formerly the shore of the German Ocean. Certain it is, that at St Andrews great encroachments have been made by the sea upon the land in no long period of time.

Soil.—The soil of a considerable portion of the parish is moorish and thin, of a cold tilly quality. Upon the sides of the hills, however, it is generally of a good fertile loam.

Botany.—Some rare plants are found here,—such as the *Ornithogalum luteum* or yellow star of Bethlehem; *Empetrum nigrum*, *Sedum reflexum*, *Hypnum dendroides*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Parnassia palustris*, *Gymnadenia conopsea*. A good deal of wood, chiefly larch and Scotch fir, has of late years been planted on one of the hills. But either the soil, or the climate, or both are not favourable to the growth of these trees, for they soon become much covered with lichen or moss.

Zoology.—No rare species of animal or insect has been found here. In a pretty extensive marsh near the church, there used to be a great many wild ducks, snipes, green plovers, redshanks, and in winter, wild geese. These have in a great measure disappeared, in consequence of its having been drained. The open fields, however, are still much frequented by wild geese in winter, which sometimes do considerable damage to the young wheat. Partridges, hares, and rabbits abound, and there are a few pheasants, and even a strayed deer is sometimes to be seen. Yet poaching is seldom heard of, except when a poor hare makes a false step into a snare set for rabbits.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Eminent Men.—The only person of eminence in literature or science known to have belonged to this parish, is John West, author of a System of Mathematics, much esteemed by the scientific world. He was son of a minister who lived about the middle of the last century. Mr West became an Episcopal clergyman in the Island of Jamaica, and died a few years ago. He is said to have left some valuable mathematical papers, some of which, it is understood, the late Professor Leslie of Edinburgh intended to publish, along with a memoir of the author.

Antiquities.—There are no buildings, ancient or modern, of any importance, except the ruins of one of those square towers which the feudal possessors of the land seem to have erected, for the defence as well as residence of their families.

Land-owners.—The land is at present much subdivided,—no heritor possessing more than two farms, or from 500 to 600 acres. All the heritors are non-resident except two, who occupy their own farms. The following is a list of the heritors according to their valued rent:—William Mackenzie of Forret; Robert Lindsay of Straiton; David Gillespie of Cruvie; Trustees of the late Sir William Fettes of Denbrae; George Johnston Lindsay of Kedloch; John Millar Bowman of Logie; Walter Millar of Tor-Kedloch; Robert Russel of Tor-Forret; and Robert Murdoch of Tor-Forret.

Rental.—The rental of the two last is under L. 50. The whole valued rent of the parish is L. 2916, 6s. 8d. There is a considerable number of feuars, possessing from 1 to 8 acres. There are eight farms above 200 acres each, and four under 100.

III.—POPULATION.

This parish, like many others, was formerly divided into smaller

farms, than it is now. This change tends, of course, to diminish the population; and, what has contributed to the same effect, fewer cottages are required upon farms, in consequence of unmarried being generally preferred to married servants. These causes of a decrease of population, however, have been in some measure counterbalanced by the encouragement given to feuing by some of the proprietors. Three small villages have arisen in this way. The advantages of feuing either to proprietor or tenant are very questionable. A higher rent may be obtained, but an unsound population is produced, and paupers, which the landholder must maintain, are increased in number. Man naturally wishes to be independent,—to have a house and a home which he can call his own. But the expense of building a house to a poor man, and a high feu-rent, often leave him nothing of independence but the name. This, however, many are compelled to do, or remove to towns, as neither proprietors nor tenants give much encouragement to the building and letting of cottages. This system weakens or dissolves that moral tie which should unite rich and poor, and widens that breach between them, which is ruinous to the peace and prosperity of both.

The population in 1831 was	430	
at present is	410	
Number of families,		100
persons under 15 years of age,		144
betwixt 15 and 30,		111
30 and 50,		97
50 and 70,		38
above 70,		20
bachelors and widowers above 50,		11
unmarried women above 45,		20
Average number of children in families,		4.77
births for last seven years,		9
marriages,		5
deaths,		7

Illegitimate births in the course of the last three years, 3.

Habits and Character of the People.—A great proportion of the inhabitants, both male and female, are employed in agriculture, and they are in general very sober and industrious, and are tolerably comfortable in their circumstances. Few of the farm-servants, indeed, have now the luxury of a cow; but they have each a Scotch pint of milk daily from their master's dairy, with a sufficient quantity of oat-meal and potatoes, and in general they fatten a pig or two annually for family use. It is, indeed, truly wonderful how well clothed, neat, and clean, large families are kept, and at the same time tolerably well educated, with the few pounds of wages received by farm-servants and other labourers. Much

depends upon the sobriety of the husband, and the good economy of the wife, and the good health which a kind Providence is pleased to bestow. The young unmarried servants are not in so comfortable a state. Their only food is oatmeal, milk, and some potatoes. They are lodged in an apartment called a *bothy*, by themselves, quite detached from their master's house, and in general entirely neglected by him as to moral inspection or religious instruction. The fatal consequence is, that too many of our youth in that rank of life have, for many years past, grown up in ignorance and vice; and the instruction which they may receive from clergymen is very inefficient, as a great proportion of them change masters every year.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

The parish contains about 3343 acres imperial measure. Of these 2770 are arable, 307 unarable, 266 in wood. At an average 302 acres are annually in wheat, 465 in barley, 785 in oats, 128 in pease and beans, 149 in potatoes, 239 in turnips, 249 in grass, cut green and for hay, 660 in pasture, 42 in fallow. The average annual produce per acre is, of wheat, 3 quarters 4 bushels; of barley, 4 quarters 4 bushels; of oats, 4 quarters 6 bushels; of pease, 3 quarters 2 bushels; of potatoes, 25 bolls, value about L. 10; of turnips, value about L. 7; of hay, 150 stones. Since the cultivation of potatoes became so extensive, a small proportion of land is in fallow.

Rent of Land.—The average rent per acre is about L. 1, 18s., paid, in general, partly in money, and partly in grain, by the fiars of the county.

Husbandry.—The system of husbandry, as in the adjoining parishes, or rather throughout the county, is upon the most improved plan, and conducted with great skill and industry. The mode of cropping is generally what is called a six years' rotation, alternating as regularly as possible green and corn crops. There is, however, an occasional deviation from this course, barley being sometimes sown after wheat in good soils. The practice of sowing turnip with bone manure has become very general; and on some farms, where the soil is light and dry, they are eaten down with sheep, which is a great improvement. It would also prove very beneficial to such soils, to allow them to lie in grass for pasture for several years. This would recruit them when exhausted by long-continued corn cropping. The want of inclosures, however, is unfavourable to this improvement.

The shortness of leases, too, is a great discouragement to enterprising farmers. For if a farm be in bad order when entered to, or need much draining, or require to be inclosed, a period of nineteen years, the almost universal term of leases, does not admit of a sufficient return for much capital expended in such improvements; and without these, the farm cannot be so productive as it would otherwise be, so that short leases, and even those of nineteen years, must be unfavourable both to proprietors and tenants. A lease of twenty-five or thirty years would certainly give greater encouragement to enterprise and improvement.

Live-Stock.—There are, on the different farms, 121 horses, 90 milk cows, 257 cattle from one to three years old, 114 pigs, 630 sheep. Many of the horses used in husbandry are reared upon the farms. They are not remarkably large, but well-shaped, stout, and active. A pair of work horses is required for every fifty acres. Iron ploughs are almost universally used. But as our roads are rather hilly, there are few single horse carts. Cattle also are, in general, reared upon the farms, at the rate of about fifteen per 200 acres. A regular proportion of these is fattened in winter by turnip, and then sold to the butcher at three years old. It may be more profitable to feed and sell them so young, but their flesh cannot be so good or nutritive as at a more mature age. Some farmers however, instead of rearing, buy in stock, and so either buy and sell at all ages, or buy so as to feed at four or five years old. The cattle reared are what is called the Fife breed, generally of a black colour, well-shaped, sometimes of great size and weight. A cross with the Teeswater breed has been tried, but it does not seem to be much approved of. The cows are not first-rate milkers, but the dairy is not much counted upon. The few sheep kept only on three farms are of various breeds,—black-faced, Highland, Cheviot, and Leicester, and crosses.

Farm-houses and steadings are tolerably good, though not, in general, equal to the extent of the farms, and to the capital, industry, and enterprise of the occupiers. The cottages are very poor uncomfortable habitations, but what have been lately built are considerably improved.

Wages.—The rate of wages is for men about 9s. a week in summer, and 8s. a week in winter; for women, by whom much field work is done, 4s. a week; for wrights, smiths, and masons from 12s. to 15s. a week.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

No turnpike road passes through any part of this parish, and there is no inn or alehouse in it. The nearest post-town is Cupar, distant about four miles and a half.

Ecclesiastical State.—There is no dissenting place of worship in the parish, and the Dissenters, who chiefly belong to what are called the Relief and Associate Synod, are not numerous,—seldom exceeding thirty individuals.

The parish church, which was built in 1826, is a very plain but commodious house, placed in a central situation. It is seated for 280, and none of the seats are let. Each heritor accommodates the people upon his own ground with seats. But though the church is sufficiently large for the population, there is still a want of seats in those divisions of the church which belong to heritors, who, by feuing their ground, have raised a greater number of people upon it than their proportion of the church can supply with seats. This is a hardship for which no legal remedy is yet provided. About one-half of the population regularly attend public worship on the Sabbath, and about one-third of them are communicants. No society for religious purposes is, at present, established in the parish. But there is, in general, an annual collection so appropriated, amounting to L. 6 or L. 7. The minister's stipend consists of 1 boll 2 pecks of wheat; 45 bolls, 1 firloft, 2 pecks of barley; 39 bolls, 1 firloft, 1 peck, 1 lippie of meal; 29 bolls, 3 pecks, 3 lippies of oats; and L. 82, 12s. 2d. The teinds are valued and exhausted. The glebe is about 6 Scotch, or 7 acres 2 roods imperial measure, which may be valued at a rent of L. 12. A new manse was built in 1815, and offices in 1828; and both are in good condition.

Education.—There is only one school in the parish. The schoolmaster has the maximum salary,—with an addition of 50 merks Scots per annum,—a mortification of an old date by an heritor in the parish to the person then called the reader. The common branches of education, English reading, writing, and arithmetic, are taught. But the schoolmaster is qualified to teach English grammar, Latin, practical mathematics, and geography, and sometimes has a few scholars attending these higher branches. The fees per quarter are 2s., 2s. 6d., and 3s. The fees received by the teacher may amount to L. 15 or L. 20 per annum. There are none in the parish who cannot read, and few who cannot write, and are not also somewhat acquainted

with arithmetic. The children of the labouring classes are in general sent to school at an earlier period of life, and leave it sooner than formerly, so that, unless they are attended to by parents or masters, or have the benefit of a Sabbath school, they too soon forget what they have learned. A Sabbath school has been long taught in this parish, but is now attended chiefly by girls.

Library.—There is no public library for the use of the parish, but Sabbath scholars and others are supplied with a few appropriate books from the manse. There is, indeed, a library of some value belonging to a heritor, to which a certain class of the parishioners have access, if they choose to avail themselves of the privilege. But the very terms upon which it is granted, operate as an exclusion from the carefully secured treasure. The books, as well as the acres, are strictly entailed. The heir of entail is prohibited from lending a book to his neighbours; but he is bound to keep a suitable room for the library in his house, and to allow free access to it to the minister and other gentlemen, there to read and study, but all women and children are expressly excluded.

Poor.—The poor in this parish, whose average number is about 7, and who get from 4s. to 10s. per month, according to their circumstances, are supplied by collections at the church door, by the interest of a small sum of money, and voluntary contributions by the heritors. The collections and interest amount to L. 18 or L. 20, and nearly as much is contributed annually by the heritors. Instances of praiseworthy delicacy respecting dependence upon the poor's fund sometimes occur, but a very different feeling is evidently increasing. The session records and parish register are regularly kept. The date of the earliest is 1660.

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