

PARISH OF KILMANY.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. HENRY D. COOK, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Situation and Boundaries.—THE parish of Kilmany is situated in the north-east district of the presbytery of Cupar, in the county of Fife. It is bounded on the east by Forgan; on the south by Logie; on the west by Dairsie, Cupar, and Moonzie; and on the north by Creech and Balmerino. The small village in which the church is placed lies at nearly equal distance from Cupar, the county town, and Newport, which is now the principal ferry to Dundee, and the north, from Edinburgh and the south of Scotland. The distance from each of these places is nearly five miles. The parish constitutes a part of that rich and fertile valley which commences at the low grounds of Forgan and Leuchars, on the east, and runs (through the north of Fife) to the west, by Rathillet, Letham, and the new inn on the left hand; and to Newburgh by Denbog, on the right.

Name.—The origin of the name is Celtic; some supposing that it means the Church of the Monks, although there are no remains of such a building. Others think, that it signifies the church in the valley,—which is characteristic of its situation.

Extent.—The length of Kilmany, from east to west, is 6 miles; and through the whole of it runs the high road from Newport to Edinburgh by Luthrie and Melville Gates, &c. It is narrow towards the east, but it gradually widens to the west. The greatest breadth betwixt Hazleton walls, and the south boundary of Myre-Cairnie, is four miles. The shape of the parish resembles that of a bottle, the manse and church being placed at the neck of it. The hills by which the valley is formed are branches of the Ochils. Their shape is peculiar, and almost uniform. From the east, they gradually ascend to a considerable height, and suddenly fall towards the west. This is not only the case with the large range which separates Kilmany from the Tay; but also with the smaller ridges which at different places divide the parish. The principal range

is extensive, and at some places rises more than 400 feet above the level of the sea. It terminates at Newton, three miles to the east of Kilmany; the southern branch of the Ochils, which forms this valley, lies in Logie parish, and extends towards Leuchars. Goales den is the only fissure of any importance in the parish. It is a beautiful and romantic spot, and I daresay would afford ample materials for the speculations of the geologist. It is a deep cut in Kilmany hill, looking towards the south, through which a small rivulet flows from the higher grounds, and by which, during the course of ages, it was probably formed. It is almost dry in summer; but in winter after storms, it sends down a considerable quantity of water to the Motray. It was planted with great taste by the late proprietor, Mr Thomson, and beautiful walks were made through it; but these, since his lamented death, have been permitted in a great degree, to go out of order.

Hydrography.—The valley itself presents some striking features. The lower part of it has been under water to a considerable length and depth. This is evident from the height of the sandy hillocks scattered through the lands of East Kinnear, and from the nature and formation of the mound, upon which the village and church of Kilmany are built. From the elevation of these, above the bottom of the valley, the water must have stood 20 feet above the channel of the Motray. From the nature of the sand deposited, it is probable that the east part of the valley formed an extensive lake. The grains of it are soft and small, and do not resemble the hard sharp sand which is found upon the sea shore. The upper part of the valley has also been under water, but rather as a marsh than deep standing water. The shape of the different hillocks and mounds shows that the lake has been gradually formed; the sides of them rise with a gentle slop, and, generally speaking, the tops of them are smooth. There must have been some barrier to the east of Kinnear, which prevented the Motray having free access to the ocean; but the precise place where it was cannot now be ascertained. How it was removed, is equally uncertain; the height of the water, accumulated for ages, probably forced a passage for itself to the sea, and left the valley a morass, which it continued to be for ages. It is not above fifty years since a great part of it was drained, and converted into excellent arable land. There is a vague tradition that there was once a passage boat upon this lake to Cruvie and Straiton, and in confirmation of this, it is stated that a small anchor was found when the meadows were first ploughed.

The Motray takes its rise from the different sides of Norman's Law; from east of these, a small stream proceeds, and they unite before they enter the parish at Starr. Its course is through the lowlands of Starr, Murdo-Cairnie, and Mountquhanie; it bounds the back fields of Rathillet and Newbigging, where it is not seen from the public road; it again appears flowing through Kilmanyden, crosses the high road at the mill, and continues its course to the Eden by Kilmany church and the two Kinnears. In summer, it is a small stream not ten feet broad, and one deep; but in winter, it often assumes a threatening appearance. It then not only fills but overflows its banks, and affords to the Eden a great mass of water. It turns in this parish three corn mills, one thrashing mill and one saw mill.

There is another small stream, which has its source to the east of Rathillet school. Its name is Cluthie or Colluthie. It joins the Motray below the church. Its whole course is little more than a mile. The water of it is pure and excellent, and it does not become dry during the hottest summers. It is the boundary betwixt Kilmany and the estate of Forret, in Logie parish. There are two other small burns, one of which passes through Lochmalonie and Rathillet, and the other, which is the south boundary of the parish below Myre-Cairnie, does not fall into the Motray. The parish, from these streams, is admirably adapted for grazing.

Climate.—The climate of Kilmany, from its situation, is mild and pleasant. The heat in summer, in the morning, and forenoon, is sometimes oppressive; but not often so; and by the afternoon, the wind goes round to the east, and gives us a cooling breeze from the German Ocean. The cold in winter is seldom intense; but the one, from the commencement of January 1838, is an exception from this remark. The thermometer on the evening of the 14th of February stood at 6 of Fahrenheit. It must have been lower than this, during the night; and at nine next morning, it was at 9. I have kept the thermometer regularly for the last seven years:—but during that period there has been no cold so intense as that which I have now mentioned. To give a fair idea of the pressure, and the temperature of the atmosphere, I send an average of the one, and the other, for the months of 1835 and 1836. It is accurately drawn up by my friend, Mr M'Gillivray, parochial teacher, from a record of the weather, daily and regularly kept by myself. The barometer is marked at nine morning and eleven at night, the thermometer at nine morning, twelve at noon, and eleven at night.

Greatest cold during the preceding twenty-four hours is taken from a self-regulating thermometer at nine morning.

1835.	Barometer.			Thermometer.		
	Morn.	Even.	Gt. C.	Morn.	Noon.	Even.
January,	30.0 $\frac{1}{10}$	30.0 $\frac{1}{10}$	31	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	40	36
February,	29.6 $\frac{3}{10}$	29.6 $\frac{3}{10}$	36	40	44	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
March,	29.9 $\frac{3}{10}$	29.9 $\frac{3}{10}$	34	41	46	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
April,	30.1 $\frac{1}{10}$	30.1 $\frac{1}{10}$	36	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$
May,	29.9 $\frac{3}{10}$	29.9 $\frac{3}{10}$	41	51	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	42
June,	30.1 $\frac{1}{10}$	30.1 $\frac{1}{10}$	45	57	61	47 $\frac{1}{2}$
July,	30.0 $\frac{1}{10}$	30.0 $\frac{1}{10}$	49	60	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	51
August,	30.0 $\frac{1}{10}$	30.0 $\frac{1}{10}$	53	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	66	54
September,	29.6 $\frac{3}{10}$	29.6 $\frac{3}{10}$	44	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	59	46 $\frac{1}{2}$
October,	29.7 $\frac{1}{10}$	29.8	39	45	51	41
November,	29.9 $\frac{3}{10}$	29.9 $\frac{3}{10}$	36	41	45	39
December,	30.1 $\frac{1}{10}$	30.1 $\frac{1}{10}$	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	37	40	35
1836.						
January,	29.8	29.9 $\frac{3}{10}$	32	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	35
February,	29.8 $\frac{1}{10}$	29.8 $\frac{1}{10}$	31	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	40	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
March,	29.7	29.4 $\frac{3}{10}$	33	39	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	36
April,	29.8 $\frac{1}{10}$	29.8 $\frac{1}{10}$	35	43	48	37
May,	30.4 $\frac{3}{10}$	30.4 $\frac{3}{10}$	39	51	60	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
June,	29.5 $\frac{2}{10}$	29.6	47	56	62	48
July,	29.9	29.9 $\frac{3}{10}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$
August,	30.0 $\frac{1}{10}$	30.0 $\frac{1}{10}$	46	56	61	48
September,	29.9 $\frac{3}{10}$	29.9 $\frac{3}{10}$	41	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	57	44
October,	29.7 $\frac{1}{10}$	29.8	38	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	42
November,	29.5 $\frac{2}{10}$	29.6	33	38	41	37
December,	29.7 $\frac{1}{10}$	29.7 $\frac{1}{10}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	37

In 1835, the greatest cold was during the night of January 18th. The thermometer stood at 18. The greatest heat was, on August 18th, 76. Greatest cold, 1836, November the 9th, 22 $\frac{1}{2}$. The greatest heat, August 11th, 74. The greatest height of barometer 1835, was 30, January 3d being 30.8 $\frac{1}{10}$, the lowest October 26, 28.7. In 1836 barometer highest, May 14th, 30.6 $\frac{1}{10}$, lowest, October 13th 28.7 $\frac{1}{10}$. The weather is often cold and ungenial in March, April, and the beginning of May, the wind being in an east or south-east direction. Our highest winds in spring and autumn are from the south-west. The willow trees all lie from that direction—but our greatest falls of rain and snow are invariably from the east or south-east. Since 1827 until March last, the roads in winter have not been completely blocked up; and when they were difficult to pass, this arose more from the snow being drifted than from any serious fall. The harvest has commenced, in this valley, since 1821, as follows.

1821, August 30,	1826, July 22,	1831, Aug. 8,	1837, September 7,
1822, do. 12,	1827, August 23,	1832, do. 21,	
1823, Sept. 16,	1828, do. 14,	1833, do. 20,	
1824, Augt. 25,	1829, do. 29,	1834, do. 12,	
1825, do. 22,	1830, Sept. 3,	1835, do. 28,	
		1836, do. 29,	

The earliest harvest for the last seventeen years being 22d of July 1826, and the latest September 16th 1828. This statement is the best practical account of the climate of Kilmany and its neighbourhood.

Geology and Mineralogy.—On these subjects, it is enough here to state, that the principal range of hills to the north of Kilmany is composed of trap or whinstone. There are various kinds of this rock. There is a dark blue species on Kinnear and East Kilmany, which is hard, and brittle, and with difficulty stands the operations of the hammer. It is in a solid body, and must be separated from the parent mass by gunpowder. There is another species of this rock on West Kilmany. It is equally hard, its colour is lighter blue, and its grain considerably coarser and more tenacious. It is difficult to work; but, by hard labour, it can be cut into any size and form, for building. It appears in the quarry in great blocks,—separated from one another, by a thin coating of a substance like yellow ochre. Judging from an imperfect examination, the quarry behind Mountquhanie, is of the same description. On the top and face of the hills, when it has been long exposed to the weather, it assumes the aspect of rotten rock. On the lower range of hills, such as are behind West Kilmany farm house, it is not in solid masses, which need to be blown; but can be separated into comparatively small pieces, by the common pick or lever. From this species of trap, some of the roads in the neighbourhood are repaired. At Hill-Cairnie and Myre-Cairnie, at the south-west of the parish, the hills assume a different appearance, although they are of the trap species. The rocks, of which they are composed, are equally hard with the trap, on the north range; but the colour, instead of a dark blue, consists of a dirty white, mixed with red; they are well adapted for coarse building, for dikes, and drains, and for metal to the roads. When properly chosen and shaped, they look tolerably well for buildings of higher pretensions. The whole of Mr Russell of Hill-Cairnie's steading, which is the most substantial in the parish, with the exception of the corner stones, lintels, and skews, is built of this stone. There are various other kinds of the trap family scattered amongst the hills.

Zoology, &c.—In addition to those birds which are common throughout the country, the pheasant has been partially introduced amongst us; but, from the want of cover, they are by no means numerous, and, from the same cause, will not become so. The parish is visited by the common and larger snipe; and occa-

sionally during winter, by the woodcock. Immense flocks of wild geese traverse the air and the fields in spring and autumn; and in winter, when the weather is mild; but from the open nature of the country, few of them fall by the gun of the sportsman. Wild ducks were at one time common; but they have, in a great degree, retired before the agricultural improvements which have taken place. A few of them are still occasionally seen about Kilmany mill-dam, and upon the Motray. The same may be said of the water hen, or common gallinule. The heron is seen; but does not build in the parish. The yellow wagtail is also rare. The ringdove produces in abundance, and for some years past has become a nuisance to the farmer. In winter, they fly in flocks, and during a storm, attack every thing green which appears above the snow. They are particularly severe upon the turnip crops. Many acres of this valuable root are annually severely damaged by this destructive bird. Means should be employed by proprietors and tenants to diminish their numbers. The lapwing appears in March and April, and the corncrake's voice is heard during the summer, from May to October. Both these birds disappear before the winter. During a storm, or rather at the approach of it, various species of gulls are seen in flocks on the fields, mixing with the common crow. They appear upon these occasions to feed on the worms turned up by the plough, and to devour whatever grain or seeds come in their way.

The Motray was once famous as a fishing stream. Its course was not direct, nor its waters equally shallow, as they now are; but at every turn, there were excellent pools or crannies, where the finny race could harbour, feed, and grow to maturity: By the improvements in agriculture, its character, in this respect, is in a great degree lost. It now assumes the aspect of a large even drain. As such, it has answered the excellent purposes for which it was cast. It has converted a large tract of marshy ground into rich and productive fields; but it has removed those corners and holes, where trout, pike, and minnows delight to dwell. The angler is now seldom seen on its banks; and when he does appear, his labour and patience receive a very poor reward.

There are no very rare species of animals found in this neighbourhood. The roe-deer was for a long time banished from this part of the country, but of late has again made its appearance. A much larger species of deer, at one period, must have existed in this parish, and neighbourhood. This is evident from some fossil

remains which were some years ago ploughed up in Hill-Cairnie Myre. One skeleton of the deer species was found with immense horns, both in point of height and breadth. It is now in the possession of Professor Fleming of Aberdeen. This must either have been a distinct species from any which we now meet with ; or the roe-deer, enjoying perfect liberty, abundance of meat, and extent of country, and, freed from the presence and persecution of man; must then have reached a size of which, in the present day, we have no conception. The badger is seldom seen ; and I was not aware that the otter was ever seen here, until last year.

Woods.—Along with the writer of the last Statistical Account, we have to lament the want of woods and plantations. With these judiciously scattered through the parish, and on the hill-tops, Kilmany would present a scene which the man of taste would delight to contemplate. But, by most of the heritors, little has been done to make it one of the most beautiful parishes in Scotland. From this censure, David Gillespie, Esq., and John A. Thomson, Esq. and Captain Pearson, are excepted. Mountquhanie, under the fostering hands of Mr Gillespie, has become a splendid residence. The woods planted by him, on the neighbouring hills, to the north-west and south, are yearly adding to the charms of his estate. The state of Kilmany, in this respect, was equally improved by the correct taste of the late Mr Thomson. The hills which separate Kilmany from the Tay were planted by him, and are now clothed with trees. Walks were cut through them, from which the Tay, the Carse of Gowrie, and the Angus hills are seen. Myre-Cairnie-hill, and the top of the ridge, which runs from it towards the east, are completely covered with wood, affording a striking object to the eye, and shelter, and climate to the soil. Whilst on these properties, the plantations have been increased,—on other estates, they have been considerably diminished. The beautiful hill of Rathillet, which was covered with fine dark fir trees, is now bare almost to its summit. A part of it has been again planted with larch, but many years must elapse before it regains its late splendid and romantic appearance. The plantations on the top of East Kinnear are now being cut. However much their removal will add to the arable acres of the farm, it does not improve its external appearance. It has given to this estate, when viewed from the south, a cold and bleak aspect, which it did not formerly possess. The old wood of the parish is about the mansion houses of Mountquhanie, Lochmalonie, and Rathillet, &c. ; and some fine trees

are about the village and church of Kilmanny. The wood principally planted is the larch, the Scotch fir, the plane, the beech, and the ash, with a few oaks interspersed. They all, from their rapid growth, appear to be congenial to the soil and climate. The oldest tree is supposed to be a plane, which is still vigorous, at Hill-Cairnie.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Eminent Men—Halkerstones of Rathillet.—The individual connected with the parish who holds the greatest place in the history of his country, is the famous but unfortunate David Halkerston, or Halkerstone of Rathillet. It is not known whether he was born at his family seat; the records of the kirk-session do not go back so far. He appears to have been a man of talent, energy, and courage, and a friend of civil and religious liberty. He had great influence over the party with whom he acted. He was connected with the men who killed Archbishop Sharp on Magus Muir, although he was not actually concerned in the murder; for which crime he was condemned, and executed at Edinburgh in the cruellest and most barbarous manner. His descendants possessed a considerable share of his talents and courage. One of them was engaged on the Whig side in the Rebellion of 1715; and long after this affair was ended, rode a fine horse, which he himself took from the enemy. Another of them, was sheriff of the county. The last male branch of the family was Mr Helenus Halkerston, a man well known in his day, for his talents and eccentricity. He sold the estate of Rathillet to a Mr Sweet, upon particular conditions, about the year 1772 or 1773. Since the death of Miss Halkerston of Carphin, which took place thirty years ago, this respectable family is extinct, at least in this part of the country.

Clergymen.—Since the Revolution, this parish has been blessed with several eminent clergymen. Mr Alexander Pitcairn, Mr Brown, and Mr Smibert, who held the benefice in succession, from February 23d 1697, to April 4th 1759, appear from the minutes which were kept by them to have been able and intelligent men, and they died ministers of Kilmanny. Mr Joseph M'Cormick succeeded Mr Smibert in April 17th 1760, and continued in the parish only for a few months; he left it in the following November. He afterwards published the *Life of Principal Carstairs of Edinburgh*, and died Principal of the United College of St Andrews. Mr William Gibb was then ordained minister in September 24th 1761. This gentleman, for some cause not stated

in the minutes of session, was not popular as a minister, principally, I believe, from non-residence in the parish. A number of parishioners seceded from the church, and built the meeting-house at Rathillet, which continues to this day. He was soon presented to the church of Uphall, by the Earl of Buchan, and was succeeded in May the 10th 1764, by Mr John Adamson. He was most popular, not more from the eloquence of his preaching than the excellence of his private character, and the kindness of his heart. Mr Adamson was called to a much wider field of usefulness, to the second charge of St Andrews, in October 1772. He died in 1808, first minister of that city, and Professor of Civil History in the United College. He was succeeded by Mr Andrew Hutton, from Cults, an amiable man, a conscientious minister, and a considerable antiquary, who died at Kilmany 1792. He was succeeded by my late brother, Mr John Cook, of whose talents and acquirements, and virtues, it would be indelicate for me, who loved and revered him from my infancy, to speak. He left the parish in 1802, for the Hebrew Chair at St Andrews, and died in 1824, after having filled the divinity chair of St Mary's from 1808. He published in 1821 his "Inquiry into the Books of the New Testament," which contains the substance of a very small part of his course of lectures on theology. He was succeeded in May 13th 1803, by even then the brilliant and accomplished Mr Thomas Chalmers, and now the well-known and justly celebrated Professor of Divinity in Edinburgh. This distinguished clergyman, who was beloved and admired by all classes of the community, and whose name is still dear to every one who sat under his ministry, discharged the duties of this sequestered parish until July 1815. His first works were written and published while he was minister of Kilmany. The present incumbent has enjoyed this benefice, since September 28th 1815. It would be unfair, in this place, to pass in silence the late Rev. John Tindal, Minister at Rathillet. By nature, he was a man of a sound and vigorous mind, and of the most amiable and generous dispositions. He assiduously cultivated the talents with which he was gifted, and had acquired a great store of varied and extensive information. He died in September 15th 1836.

Land-owners.—The landed proprietors, according to their valued rent, are the following gentlemen:—David Gillespie, Esq. of Kirkton and Mountquhanie, the principal heritor; John A. Thomson, Esq. of Charleton and Kilmany, &c.; Charles Kinnear, Esq. of Kinnear and Kinloch; Robert Russell, Esq. of Hill-Cairnie;

David Carswells, Esq. of Rathillet; Captain Hugh Pearson, R. N. of Myre-Cairnie; James Horsburgh, of Lochmalonie; Henry Wedderburn, Esq. of Birkhill, &c. and W. Kinnear; Henry Inglis, Esq. of Newington; Mrs Robertson of Ballendean and Newbigging; and John Inglis, Esq. of Colluthie. Only a few acres of Mr Inglis' property are in Kilmanny parish.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers I examined with great care in November 1828, and I then made the following minute with regard to them: Kilmanny, November 16th 1828, "I have examined with considerable care the records of the session of Kilmanny, and I have found them wonderfully complete, notwithstanding their present miserable condition. They have been originally bound up as a volume; but at this date they consist of separate sheets and leaves. When they were put into my possession, they were in great disorder, and it required nearly a week's labour to put them into their present condition. A considerable part of them are consumed with damp and bad care. The marking of the pages is gone; and I am afraid, that, in their present wasted state, they will not keep together for many years. The paper is so much consumed, that they cannot be bound into a volume. All that I can do to preserve them after being arranged is to enclose them in a portfolio. They commence 1st of November 1696, and they go down to 1729; the month at which they close, is worn off. In the records there is a blank from October 31st 1697 to June 1st 1701; also a leaf of distribution of kirk-session 1728. I have observed in these early records of the kirk-session no other blank. I have put the registers of births together at the end. They consist of three fragments. The first of the register of births begins May 5th 1706, and is very accurate, although a good deal decayed, until August 18th 1710. The second portion of the register of births commences November 18th 1711, (leaving a blank from August 1710,) and continues regular although much wasted at the bottoms of the pages, until October 12th 1718. Third portion of the registers of births commences November 18th 1721, (leaving a blank from October 1718,) and it goes down to 1727. This is in far worse condition than the other two. It is so much wasted that I could not ascertain the particular month in 1717, when it closes. The records which I have examined and described begin, as before stated, November 1696, and come down to 1729." This volume of minutes of session has been long in bad condition. So far back as when Mr Adamson.

was elected minister in 1764, it is stated, that the session-clerk produced "an old illegible book of minutes, about the year 1669-70,* &c. a book in which were contained a register of baptisms, &c. from November 1696 to December 1729, inclusive, and minute of discipline, collections, distributions of the same dates;" another book, containing a register of baptisms, &c. from January 1730, to the present time, and minutes of collections and distributions from January 1730 to December 1728, inclusive, and discipline by itself, from January 1740 to the present time; another book containing only minutes of collections and distributions from January 1740 to the present time." These are all in existence. They were most accurately kept by Mr Adamson. They have been continued to the present day, except minutes of discipline. Since Mr Adamson's time, until very lately, this part of the parish registers has been completely neglected. No entry has been made with regard to any meetings which have taken place betwixt the heritors and kirk-session.

Little is known of the ecclesiastical state of the parish before 1697. From a monument lately turned up in the church-yard, it appears that a Master James Thomson was minister of Kilmany for forty-two years previous to 1646. He died in that year aged seventy-eight; and it adds, and "that of his beloved wife, Besse Smith, with whom he lived forty-one years, Deo Lavs, amen." No tradition remains in the parish with regard to this reverend gentleman. In Limoad's Diary, a Mr George Thomson is mentioned as minister of Kilmany, and dying there about 1655. But whoever were the ministers of Kilmany previous to 1697, it is evident from a minute of session, May 7th 1707, that the sacrament of the Lord's supper for a long time had not been regularly dispensed. These are the words of it: "Being Wednesday the session met, and considering that this congregation has long wanted the benefit of the sacrament of the Lord's supper, the minister (Mr Brown) did intimate to them his design of celebrating that solemn ordinance; and the session considering what may be the most proper season for it, did condescend upon the last Sabbath of June next; and farther considering that the communion tables were all broken and gone to ruin, the session recommends it to the minister and elders in the town of Kilmany to agree with James Miles, wright, to buy timber, and make up the said tables, and to mend some parts of

* I never saw the old illegible book of minutes about the year 1669-70. The earliest which was put in my possession was 1st of November 1696.

the pulpit that is decayed, and to do other things needful about the church. And the session farther recommends to the minister, to write to the provost of the Old College, either to furnish the communion elements, or allow a fund to buy them, being, it is said, that the Old College was in use and wont so to do, and being proprietors of the tithes of the parish, are obliged to allow a fund for, or else provide elements for, the use of the parish." Upon this solemn occasion, "Elizabeth Forrester, Lady Mountwhanie, spouse to James Crawford of Mountwhanie, did provide the pulpit with a covering, together with a good silk fringe, and other things belonging thereto; as also she did give as much fine linen as served for the use of the table cloaths at the Sacrament. The session, out of gratitude to the said lady, did order the recording of this in the minutes." It is stated in the minutes of June the 8th, "the provost of the Old College declines to allow a fund, or afford communion elements. The session recommends to the minister to take advice what means must be used to obtain a fund for this purpose in time coming." June 22d, the session met, intimation was made this day, that the fast day before the sacrament was to be on Wednesday next. The sacrament was dispensed on the 29th of June. The session met on the 2d of July; "the minister reported that he had taken advice what method must be used for obtaining a fund for providing the communion elements, and that the advice was, that there was no other way but to raise a process before the Session Lords, now Commissioners for Plantation of Kirks and Valuation of Teinds, and that he was resolved, when a fair opportunity offered, to take that method, both with respect to his stipend and the communion elements. The session, considering that the minister's stipend, being but a scrimp enough maintenance, could not allow of paying the elements out of it, they unanimously agreed to pay them out of the collections, gathered at the sacrament, until a fund shall be otherwise provided." In July 6th 1714, the session met, and the minister represented to them that he had at last, after a long depending process, obtained a decret of modification and locality of his stipend; wherein a fund is provided for communion elements, which he pays out of the same, and so the poor's box will be no longer burdened with the payment of communion elements.

In the minutes, there is nothing particularly interesting to the general reader. In November 8th 1704, the session gave to Daniel Guines, as encouragement for setting up a printing-house

in Dundee, 14s. In May 5th 1709, a collection was ordered for those whose houses were burnt in Edinburgh. "In October 23d 1747, the session met, and the minister represented that the rebels having been in his house several times during the late rebellion, and carried off some of his effects, he had put in places he thought they would not suspect, some papers of value in his custody, particularly a bill of seventeen pounds sterling, belonging to the kirk-session, and that he could not recover the said bill." As this bill was afterwards renewed by the person who owed it, the kirk-session lost nothing by this depredation of the rebels.

The Lawries of Hill Cairnie are the oldest residenters in the parish. They have lived upon the same farm for 118 years, and, from 1720 to 1834, they were members of the kirk-session. The first, Mr David Lawrie, was admitted into the session of Kilmany in 1720. His son, Mr David Lawrie, was elected an elder in 1766; and his son, Mr David Lawrie, (who died 1834,) in May the 5th 1814.

Antiquities.—Kilmany is not remarkable for the number of its antiquities; and there are no traditions with regard to those which exist. A considerable number of stone coffins have been dug up behind the farm-house of Starr. A few earthen vessels with bones were found on the farm of Drumnod, and one of the same description at Kilmany. Some of these were of the rudest construction, and others of them displayed more refinement of taste, and more elegance of workmanship. Those found at Drumnod were in the possession of Dr Fleming of Aberdeen, when he was minister of Flisk; and Mr Edie, Kilmany, had a part of the urn found on his farm, for many years. Coins have been occasionally picked up at Myre-Cairnie and Hill-Cairnie, of different sizes and value. These I never saw, and there are none of them, as far as I know, in the possession of any individual in the parish.

Modern Buildings.—The house of Mountquhanie, built by the late Mr Gillespie, is an elegant modern structure, on a fine commanding situation looking to the south. The policy around it is kept in excellent order, and the whole appearance of the grounds about it is improving in beauty every year. The other houses of resident heritors are neat and commodious, and suited to their circumstances, to the extent of their families, or to their individual tastes.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of Kilmany has been decreasing for many years. This arises from the enlargement of the farms, from the want of

ground for feuing, and from the introduction of machinery for bodily and manual labour. In the last Statistical Account it is stated, there are now living in the parish 396 males and 473 females. When the census was taken in 1821, the population was 751, 345 males and 406 females. In 1831 it had fallen to 707, 334 males and 373 females, and since that date it is as low as 685 or 690. From the time when the last Statistical Account was written, thrashing-mills have been universally introduced, and have led to a considerable diminution of the population; and individuals with large families naturally retire from a parish, where there are no manufactories, to towns and places where they can obtain employment for their children. The average of births for the last seven years has been 15, of marriages 3; of deaths it is not so easy to speak accurately, as some die in the parish who are buried elsewhere, and many of the dead from other parishes are buried in Kilmany churchyard. This will appear evident from the following statement: There have been buried at Kilmany, for the last seven years, 106; of this number only 45 have died in the parish. Those who died here, and were buried elsewhere, are not recorded in our register. I should think that twelve is a fair average of those who have died in the parish for the last seven years.

The average number of persons under 15 years,	- - -	240
betwixt 15 and 20,	- - -	203
30 and 50,	- - -	169
50 and 70,	- - -	68
70 and upwards,	- - -	14

There are no noblemen in Kilmany parish.

Number of proprietors of land of yearly value, L. 50 and upwards,	-	9
The number of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, above 50,	-	11
Unmarried women upwards of 45,	-	21
Number of families,	-	137
of inhabited houses,	-	137
of uninhabited,	-	5
Illegitimate children for the last three and a-half years,	-	9

The inhabitants, from the profession which they follow, and from their temperate habits, are healthy and strong, and many of them reach to very advanced age. Since 1830, there have died eleven individuals, whose united ages amounted to 924 years; the average age of each, 84.

From an early period, Kilmany has been an agricultural parish, and its population possessed of much natural talent, great industry, and pious and amiable dispositions. Every clergyman who has laboured amongst them, has had good reason to bear testimony to their piety and correct conduct, and has received from them, many

marks of affection and esteem. This amiable feature in their character, has hitherto been general.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

The number of males employed in agriculture is 120. They may be thus divided: proprietors farming their estates or part of them, 5; tenants, 12; cottars or agricultural married servants, 37; unmarried do., 66; total, 120. The industry of the parish in other respects may be estimated from the following statement: day labourers, 18; weavers, 10; wrights, 2 masters, workmen and apprentices, 11; sawyers, 5; smiths, 6 masters, workmen and apprentices, 4; publican, 1; toll-keeper, 1; tailors, 2 masters, apprentice 1; masons, 3; gardeners, 2 masters, workmen and apprentices, 4; grocers in a small way, 2; millers, 3, assistants, &c. 3; beadle, 1; shoemakers, 3 masters, workmen and apprentices, 6; ministers, 1 Established, 1 Secession; parochial schoolmaster 1, schoolmistresses, 2; butler, gamekeeper, &c. 5; retired, 3; total, 101.

There is no large manufactory in the parish. The weavers are employed at home work, and when this cannot be obtained, they are supplied with Osnaburgh, or other cloth, by the merchants of Dundee and Cupar; or by their agents in the country. In addition to the number who weave, mentioned above, there are several females who occupy themselves in this manner, during the winter. In summer, they generally give up this work when the farmers need their assistance.

The only branch of industry, except agriculture, which is carried on to any extent, is a saw-mill, which was some years ago erected by Mr Thomson of Charleton. It has been occupied, ever since it was built, by Mr William Malcolm, wright. During the course of the year, it is by him actively employed, and cuts down a considerable quantity of wood. Its power is not sufficiently strong for large trees, but it is admirably adapted for cutting paling, for preparing wood for sheep flakes, and for converting inferior timber into staves for herring barrels. Many thousands of these are annually sent from this mill to Leith, and other places on the Forth where herrings are cured.

Agriculture.—The whole of this parish is arable, with the exception of the hill tops, which are planted. The number of cultivated acres is about 3550 Scotch, or by imperial measure, 4477. There is no land which continues waste, or in a state of natural pasture. There is no undivided common. The number of acres

planted is not above 150 acres Scotch, or 190 imperial measure. The trees which are planted are the Scotch fir, the larch, the beech, with an intermixture of a few ash, plane, and oak.

Rent.—The average rent of the arable land is about L. 2, 5s. to L. 2, 10s. per acre; that of grazing is at the rate of L. 3 per ox, or cow, and of 12s. per ewe, or full-grown sheep for the season.

Wages.—The wages of married farm-servants are from L. 9 to L. 12, with house and garden, 6½ bolls of oatmeal, 9 bolls of potatoes per annum, and 1 pint of sweet milk daily; of unmarried servants living in bothies, L. 10 to L. 11, with the same allowance of oatmeal and milk; and potatoes for supper. Fuel and bed-clothes are afforded by their masters. In winter the rate of common labourers is from 8s. to 9s. per week; in summer from 9s. to 11s. Artisans vary from 10s. to 16s. per week. Women for agricultural work 8d. without meat; do. for washing, 1s. with meat, but the hours are long.

Grain.—Varieties of seed used, and the quantity sown per Scotch acre: *Wheat.*—White do. now principally Hunter's; little red do.; quantity sown per Scotch acre, 4 bushels. *Barley English.*—Chevalier do. much used, and approved of; the only objection against it, is its being ten days later of ripening than other varieties; quantity sown per acre from 5 to 6 bushels. *Oats.*—Potatoe do. early Angus, common, and lately introduced, and much esteemed Hopetoun do. Quantity of seed per acre from 6 to 8 bushels. *Potatoes.*—The Devonshire red, and the Perthshire red, the most popular in the London market. There were fewer failures in the crop of Devonshire red, in this neighbourhood, than of any other variety. A few blue Dons are planted, more of Glasgow buffs, and almost no white species. When raised, they are for home consumption. Quantity used for seed per acre, from 3 to 4 bolls. *Turnips.*—For early use, white globe and red, for standing during the winter and spring, green top yellow, Aberdeenshire yellow, hybrid, and a few Swedes. Quantity used for seed per acre, 2 to 2½ lbs. *Grass.*—Annual and perennial rye-grass, 1 to 2 bushels per acre; red clover from 10 to 12 lbs. per do. Some farmers sow along with it 2 lbs. of white. When laid down for pasture 4 lbs. of red; with 5 to 6 lbs. of white clover.

Live-Stock.—The breeds of sheep which are raised, or bought in to feed, are the Leicester, Cheviot, and Highland kinds. There are about 1000 of the above varieties annually fed for the butcher upon turnips. The breed of cattle is the original Fife one, or as

near it, as can now be obtained. Some years ago, the Teeswater, or short-horned breed, was introduced, and some very fine cattle were raised from it. They were profitable to the breeder, from his being able to sell them fat, a year sooner, than the Fife and Angus kinds. But they are too fine, and delicate for our climate, and pasture. They have a tendency to degenerate, unless they are kept up at a great expense, or the breed renewed from warmer and richer soils. The original breed of the county, if equally attended to, although kept to a greater age, affords a richer article to the butcher, and is nearly, if not altogether, as profitable to the farmer. A cross betwixt the Teeswater and the Fife breed is generally considered an advantageous one. The stock thus raised, if placed in favourable circumstances, acquire a greater weight than the pure Fife breed, and, although more delicate, are sooner ready for the market. There are about 200 cattle of various kinds raised in the parish annually, and the most of them are sold fat, about three years of age. There are few horses raised for the market. Those bred for agricultural purposes are strong and handsome.

Rotation of Crops.—On the best soils the following five shift is common: 1. Fallow or green crop; 2. wheat; 3. barley sown down with grass seeds; 4. grass cut, or pastured; 5. oats. This is a severe rotation, and has a tendency in the course of years to wear out the best of land. It can be justified only from the want of enclosures, which prevents the farmer from adopting, as he would wish to do, the stock husbandry. This is gradually giving way to the six shift, which, in every agricultural point of view, is superior to it, although at first less profitable. 1. Fallow, or green crop; 2. wheat; 3. pease or beans, or turnips manured with bones, and eaten off with sheep; 4. barley with grass seeds; 5. grass cut, or pastured; 6. oats. This rotation would be much improved, by allowing the land to lie in pasture for two or three years after barley, and would be unquestionably so, if the farms were properly enclosed. There is little land in the parish which cannot bear this last course. Where it does exist, barley is substituted for wheat; then, white and green crops alternately, and pasture for several years.

Great improvements have been made within the last forty years, in ploughing and draining; and they are still proceeding. Furrow draining, which promises such happy results, has been introduced, and will in a short time be carried to a great extent. The subsoil

plough has also been set to work. These united will improve the wet and retentive lands. They will free them from extra moisture, give them depth of soil, and prepare them for the reception of lime and manure. Another great improvement which has been introduced within the last few years is the application of bones for fertilizing the soil. This manure is admirably adapted for high dry fields.

The leases extend to the period of nineteen years, and the nature and conditions of them are generally considered fair for proprietor and tenant,—perhaps an extension of them to twenty-four years would be still more advantageous to both parties. The farm houses and steadings are, in a majority of cases, good, and, by the liberality of the proprietors, are improving every year.

Rathillet mill presents an obstacle for improving one part of the parish. Its dam-dike prevents a proper level from being carried through the low lands of West Rathillet, and Mountquhanie, and Stair. The fields lying along this part of the Motray, which from their situation, should be the most productive in the parish, are almost always damp, and do not bear the crops of which they are capable. They are also exposed to be occasionally flooded. Were this obstacle removed, and the lands properly drained, the difference betwixt the crops, which are now, and which would be raised upon these fields, would amply remunerate the heritors interested, in a very few years. All such obstacles are removed in the eastern part of the parish, and the consequence is, that the banks of the Motray, which were once marshy and of little value, are now dry, and produce excellent crops of grain and the best of pasture. What are called the Greens and the Haughs of Kilmanny, were also occasionally overflowed with water. This was corrected some years ago, by giving the Motray a new and a wider course, betwixt the mill and the church of Kilmanny.

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, in as far as it can be ascertained, is as follows:

Produce of all kinds of grain cultivated for food of man or the domestic animals,	13,800
of potatoes turnips, &c. cultivated in the fields for food,	3,600
of hay almost all cultivated,	1400
of land in pasture rating it at L. 3 per cow or full-grown ox, grazed, or that may be grazed for the season, at 12s. per ewe, or full grown sheep pastured or may be pastured for the year,	1200
of annual thinning and periodical felling of woods, plantations, &c.	40
Total yearly value of raw produce raised,	L. 20,240

Farms, and the nature of their soil and capabilities.—East Kin-

near has various soils. In the lower parts, it is sandy, with some moss along the banks of Motray. The higher fields are not composed of a deep but of a sharp light soil. The best lands of Kinnear are not so strong as to resist extreme drought. It suffered much from this cause in 1826. It is naturally adapted for sheep, and cattle, more than a continued rotation of culmiferous and leguminous crops. It has been most judiciously and completely divided into parks, and enclosed with substantial whinstone dikes. This improvement has added greatly to the produce of the farm. By the assistance of these parks, and by grazing, excellent crops have been lately raised upon inferior land; and first-rate cattle and sheep have been brought to the market.

The next farm to the west is Little Kinnear, the property of Henry Wedderburn, Esq. of Birkhill. It is a small one, but valuable from its soil, its climate, and situation. It requires only to be enclosed, to become a first-rate farm for its size. The upper land, although thin, lies upon a whinstone bottom. To the west of Little Kinnear, lies the estate of Kilmany, belonging to John A. Thomson, Esq. of Charleton. It is divided into three farms;—East and West Kilmany;—and Muir Craig, on the top of the hill, which separates Kilmany from Balmerino and the Tay. The two first farms have always been considered excellent ones, and capable of raising all kinds of crops. They are more adapted for wheat, than either of the Kinnears. Their soil is various. Upon the Motray it is a deep rich loam. In wet seasons, this part of it raises great quantities of straw; but the quantity and the quality of the grain do not correspond with the bulk of fodder. This was particularly the case in 1817; but in drier seasons it produces heavy crops of straw and corn. Another part of it is a fine sharp soil lying on trap, which yields an excellent boll, for the quantity of fodder, which is in some seasons deficient. There is another part of it, moorish, and of little value to the farmer. This is the tract of land lying betwixt the manse and glebe, and the east march of Rathillet. This part of the property, by the subsoil plough, furrow draining, and, above all things, by enclosures, may be much improved, and, in the course of time, may become, if not fertile, at least a convenient piece of ground to the tenant. The Muir Craigs is a hill farm, and, as its name denotes, there is in it a considerable quantity of indifferent land; but of late years, it has been much improved, and is in the way of being still better

cultivated. The value of the whole of this estate would be much enhanced, if it was as completely inclosed as East Kinnear.

To the west of Kilmanny is the estate of Rathillet, which was long in the possession of the Halkerstones; but, for the last sixty years, has been the property of the grandfather, and father of the present laird, David Carswell, Esq. It is one of the largest, and, upon the whole, one of the best farms in the parish. It was well enclosed by a Mr Sweet, who purchased it from Mr Halkerston, with hedge-rows interspersed with ash trees, and in this respect it took the lead, in substantial improvements, of the rest of the parish, by nearly half a century. The soil, generally speaking, is not so well adapted for wheat as Kilmanny, and of the other farms which are still to be mentioned; but for barley, and for raising cattle, it has few equals in this or in the neighbouring districts. To the north of Rathillet, is Newbigging, part of the property of Mrs Robertson of Ballendean; it contains some good and some indifferent land.

The estate of Mountquhanie, belonging to David Gillespie, Esq. of Kirkton, originally containing the farms of Stirton, Mountquhanie, and Drumnod, lies to the north-west of Rathillet. Of these, the soil of Stirton is the poorest. It is thin cold land, with a retentive subsoil. It is not enclosed. Little, for many years, was done upon this farm. The proprietor took it into his own hands some years ago. He drove lime to it, and in some degree drained it. With these improvements, it was lately let to an active tenant, who will employ skill and capital to increase its productive powers. Mountquhanie and Drumnod contain excellent sharp land, (a part of it upon whinstone bottom,) and are highly cultivated.

To the south of Mountquhanie, are the farms of Starr and of the Cairnies, Murdoch and New Cairnie. These by purchase were added to the Mountquhanie estate by the late Mr Gillespie. They contain some of the best land in the parish. They are fit to raise every species of crop, and equally adapted for the feeding of cattle. To the west of Murdoch Cairnie is the estate of Newington, belonging to Henry Inglis, Esq. Only part of Mr Inglis' property is in Kilmanny; the rest of it, is in the adjoining parish of Moonzie. It originally formed part of the Cairnie estate, and is distinguished for a rich deep soil. Lochmalonie, the estate of James Horsburgh, Esq. lies to the south of Rathillet, and is bounded by it on the north and west. The soil of Lochmalonie is various. About the mansion-house, and farm-steading, it is excellent. The higher grounds to the south, are of inferior quality. It is cold with a re-

tentive subsoil. This part of the property was much improved, by its late amiable, judicious, and justly esteemed proprietor, Major Horsburgh. He trenched a considerable part of it; and one field, where he was disappointed of the beneficial effects which he expected, he covered with clay, which he found under the surface, which succeeded far beyond his most sanguine hopes.

The only other estates within the parish, and which form its southwest boundary, are Hill Cairnie, the property of Robert Russell, Esq. and Myre Cairnie, belonging to Captain Pearson, R. N. Both of these farms are cultivated by Mr Russell. They contain some very strong land. Hill Cairnie is known in the neighbourhood for its deep red clay. It has also a considerable extent of meadow ground, which is composed of sand, moss, and marl. This is all drained, and contributes liberally to the barn-yard, or to the feeding byres. Both these farms lie near the town of Cupar, and from it receive a great quantity of dung, in addition to what is produced upon themselves. They are thus highly cultivated and fertile.

From these observations, it is evident that Kilmany is a most productive parish. From the well known excellence of its soil, from the greater part of it being completely watered by the Motray, and its other small streams, from the excellence of the roads which run through it, and from its nearness to good markets,—the farms which compose it, have been long in great request by the agriculturist. There are many offerers of skill, and of capital, for every farm which comes into the market. On this account all the farms are rented at their full value, and some of them above it. If times were becoming worse than they now are, the rent promised for them could not be paid, without entrenching upon the capital of the tenants. Such a state of things would be deeply to be deplored, not more for the sake of this industrious, and in every way respectable class of men, than for the agricultural prosperity and the general good of the country.

The valued rent of Kilmany is L. 5327, 9s. 9d. Scots money; real rent from L. 8000 to L. 9000 Sterling.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town—Means of Communication.—What is called the village of Kilmany consists of the cottars' houses of the two farms of the same name, with those of the wright, smith, shoemaker, weaver, and beadle; and of a few more families. The market-town is Cupar, which is distant from the centre of the parish betwixt four

and five miles. Although the roads are excellent, it enjoys few means of communication with the neighbouring towns and villages. There is no post nearer than Cupar or Newport, which is found in many cases to be very inconvenient, and no carrier passes this way to Dundee and Cupar. A great part of the necessaries of life must be sent for, to one or other of these places, which entails upon the inhabitants additional labour and expense. The parish is abundantly supplied with excellent bread, three or four times a-week, by carts from Cupar, Newport, and Leuchars. The length of the turnpike-road running through the valley is six miles. Originally there was a considerable deal of posting upon it, from Newport to Edinburgh, as this is the best and nearest line of road betwixt these places. But all the public coaches go round by Cupar, and since the starting of these conveyances, few post-chaises are seen in this district. There are eleven small bridges in the parish, eight of them are over the Motray, and all of them in good order.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is situated upon the beautiful rising ground, upon which the small village is placed. It commands a fine view of the surrounding country. The Motray runs below it, and washes the bank upon which it is built. It is not particularly well situated for the accommodation of the parish; as the most extensive and populous parts of it lie at a considerable distance from the church. This cannot now be avoided. As the parish is not extensive, the people in good weather can easily attend divine worship, from its most distant points. If they are unwilling to come so far, there are other churches connected with the Establishment nearer them, to which they can easily go. The greatest distance from the parish church, is about four and a-half miles. It was built in 1768. It is of the plainest construction. The original expense of it, was under L. 150. From some repairs which it lately received, it is far from being uncomfortable. It can accommodate from 300 to 340 individuals. As the parish has diminished in population since it was erected, it is more than sufficiently large for the congregation. The greatest part of the area is divided amongst the different heritors, and is occupied by them, or by their tenants and servants; but the communion tables and the east gallery are free sittings, as nothing has been charged for them for many years. These were erected originally at the expense of the kirk-session, and were let out for the benefit of the poor.

The manse was built for Dr Chalmers in 1810. By his advice, the site of it was removed from the village to its present situation on the glebe. It is now about 400 paces to the west of the church. This change for many reasons was a desirable one. The old site with the garden, and small park below the church, do not now belong to the minister. They were exchanged in 1820, for land lying contiguous to the principal part of the glebe. The manse now stands by itself, in a fine park of ten acres, with an excellent approach to it, which the late site completely wanted. The manse and offices are in good repair, and are in every way suitable to the accommodation of the minister. The garden is surrounded with an excellent wall, five and a half feet high to the south, nine and a half to the east, north, and west; it was built in 1820. The heritors allowed for this purpose L. 45; the present incumbent, for his own conveniency, gave an additional L. 10. It is now well stocked with fruit trees, although the soil is not very favourable for their growth; and with an abundance of gooseberry, and currant bushes. The ground about the manse was laid out with great taste by Dr Chalmers. It remains very much in the state in which he left it. The glebe consists of nearly 10 acres Scotch measure, and is enclosed with a beech and thorn hedge. The soil is unequal; but a great part of it is good and sharp; and, under proper management, is productive. It would let over head at L. 8 to L. 3, 10s. per acre. The stipend during the greatest part of Dr Chalmers' incumbency, and of mine, was, wheat, 8 bolls; barley, 92 bolls, 1 firloft 1 peck, 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ lippies; oatmeal, 48 bolls, 1 firloft, 1 peck, 0 $\frac{7}{8}$ lippies; oats, 40 bolls, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. of communion elements. In 1832 the stipend was augmented by the Court of Teinds, as follows: wheat, 8 bolls; barley, 116 bolls; oatmeal 116, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. as communion elements. The whole teinds of the parish, except what the minister receives as stipend, belong to the United College of St Andrews, and every augmentation which is granted is taken from the revenues of that most respectable body. This is a state of things which is in every way to be regretted, and the college has unquestionably a just claim upon Government, for the loss which by various augmentations, they have sustained. The Principal and Professors of the said college are patrons of the parish.

There has been a dissenting chapel in the parish since 1762. The clergyman, I believe, is paid by the collections, and the seat-rents; his salary is about L. 100. He has, in addition, a good

house, and an excellent garden. As the congregation is composed of the Dissenters of various parishes in the neighbourhood, I do not know the number which attends this chapel. The number of heads of families attending the Established Church is about 80; of communicants, 266 to 275.

Education.—There are three schools in the parish; the parochial one, at Rathillet, the centre of the parish; and two private ones, taught by females, at Hazleton of Mountquhanie, and at Kilmanny. The two last are supported by the liberality of Mrs Gillespie of Kirkton, and Mrs Thomson of Charleton. Each teacher has a house, school-room, and garden, and L. 10 of salary; the rest of their living is composed of school-fees, which may amount to betwixt L. 5 and L. 10 per annum. These schools have been of great use in teaching the younger children, who are not able to go so far as the parish school; and still more so, for giving to the girls in the parish and neighbourhood a knowledge of knitting, needle-work, and other branches of female education. In the parochial school, the ordinary branches of education are at present most ably taught by Mr William M'Gillivray. In addition to these, if required, he is prepared to teach practical mathematics, geography, and Latin. The fees are fixed by the heritors and minister, as follows: for English reading, 2s. per quarter; do. with writing per quarter, 2s. 6d; these, with arithmetic, 3s. 6d. per quarter; these, with English grammar and geography, 5s. per quarter; without geography, 4s.: and for the whole, with Latin, 10s. per quarter. The school-master, like most of his brethren in country parishes, receives only three quarters per annum. He is at present ill accommodated, having only the legal allowance of two rooms; and these are small and low in the ceiling; but I have no doubt that this will be corrected by the liberality of the heritors, when a new school-room is built. He has an excellent garden; and as session and heritor's clerk, he has a salary of L. 3, 10s., the emoluments of which office, from marriages, births, and funerals may be, on an average, L. 2 more per annum. His school-fees may amount to L. 18 or L. 20 per annum. All the children are sent to school, and there is almost no person who cannot read; and a great part of the lower classes, can also write and keep accounts. From the central situation of the school, all the children in the parish can attend it, who have reached the age of seven years. There is no need of additional schools.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The poor of this parish are few in number, and are supported at a very trifling expense. There still exists amongst them that noble spirit, which spurns at public assistance, when, by their own exertions and economy, they can provide for themselves. We have, at present, cases amongst us where individuals have reached the utmost verge of human life; with means bordering upon poverty, and by many, would be considered actually so, resolutely refusing the scanty supply which is given to those who are upon the kirk-session roll. The number who were assisted by the kirk-session last year were 14, of whom five only were regularly on the roll; the rest got occasional assistance. The whole sum given to the above poor, from January 1837 to January 1838, was L. 23, 11s. 5d. In addition to this, 15s. 6d. was given to a medical gentleman for advice; and perhaps L. 3 are still due to the schoolmaster, for poor scholars. In addition to this sum, David Gillespie, Esq. of Kirkton, gave me liberty last year, to give coals to every person in the parish, who I thought stood in need of them; and I was particularly requested by him, not to diminish the ordinary supply afforded to the poor, in consequence of his donation. Several families, who were in distress from accidental circumstances, were thus supplied with coals, who never received a farthing from the kirk-session. Call the average, L. 30; and this sum cannot be said to be extravagant, upon a rental of L. 8000 to L. 9000 per annum, although the heritors paid every farthing of it. But this they do not. 1st, The kirk-session has an heritable bond belonging to it of L. 200; the interest of which, although now reduced, goes for the support of the poor, and the other expenses of the kirk-session, which amount annually to L. 8, 7s.; 2d, collections at the church doors, which amount to about L. 14; 3d, dues upon mortcloths, which may average from L. 2 to L. 2, 5s.; and dues upon marriages, which come to very little money; 4th, interest of a legacy of L. 45 left by the late David Gillespie, Esq. of Kirkton, for the benefit of the poor; and 5th, interest of the remains of a legacy of L. 34, 2s. 10d. left by the late John A. Thomson, Esq. of Charleton, to be expended upon clothing to needy and respectable individuals. Although the kirk-session had no other expenses, the funds are not sufficient of themselves to supply the poor, few as they are, and to pay the salaries above stated. In addition to these, there are school-fees for the children of people in distress, and there are accidental expenses, which, taken together, may amount annually from L. 3, 10s. to L. 4, 10s. To

make up any such deficiency, the heritors were accustomed to assess themselves voluntarily, according to their valued rents. All that was required of them was a sum of L. 30 to L. 35 every alternate year. They thus kept the capital of the kirk-session entire, and ready to be advanced upon any emergency. But on a late occasion, a majority of heritors agreed not to contribute as they had hitherto done, until the legacy left to the kirk-session by Mr Gillespie was expended. The tendency of such proceeding, if carried farther, is to bring on a legal assessment, which will destroy here, as elsewhere, that independent and noble spirit, which spurns at parochial relief. The present incumbent, at least, has done all in his power to prevent this state of things.

Inns.—There is now only one public-house in the parish.

Fuel.—The principal article used for fuel is coal. There is no pit of this valuable mineral nearer than twelve miles. By land carriage, it is brought from Teasses in Ceres parish, from Drumcarro in Cameron, from Kilmux, and from Orr's Bridge. It is imported in considerable quantities into Balmerino, from various places on the Forth, and from Newcastle. On the hill, a double cart containing six loads, costs from 7s. 6d. to 9s. 6d.; carriage of ditto. with tolls 8s. 10d. At Balmerino, English coal costs about 15s. to 17s., Scotch coal from 12s. 6d. to 17s., carriage 4s. for a double cart. In winter the price is even higher at Balmerino than what is stated.

June 1838.