

and it is pleasant to find that his labours are duly appreciated by the inhabitants at large.

Fuel.—This article of domestic economy consists entirely of coal, and is chiefly imported from Newcastle and the Frith of Forth. The farmers who have the command of carriages supply themselves occasionally and their servants from the coal-pits in the southern parts of the country; from the nearest of which the parish is distant about twelve miles. English coal is obtained at the shore, at the rate of from 4s. 6d. to 5s. 9d. per boll of six cwt. according to quality; and the Scotch at about 6s. per boll of 8 cwt. The price of the best coal at the nearest pit, which is Drumcarro, is 1s. 10d. per load of 4 cwt.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The improvements in husbandry and agriculture are abundantly manifest in the district, since the date of last Account. Many wastes have been reclaimed, marshes have been drained, and thriving plantations are everywhere rising up for shelter and protection. The systems of wedge draining and subsoil ploughing are being adopted. Turnips are extensively sown; and the practice of eating them off with sheep, in suitable situations, is general. The roads through the parish have also been much improved, and are, in general, kept in excellent repair. Many of the farm-steadings are newly erected, and some of them may vie with any in the country, either in extent of accommodation, or in neatness and elegance of structure.

22d February 1838.

PARISH OF FLISK.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. GEORGE MARSHALL, MINISTER.*

TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—FLISK appears to have been the ancient, as well as modern name of the parish. It is possibly connected with the word

* Drawn up by the Rev. Robert Traill, A. M. Assistant *pro tempore* to the Rev. Mr Marshall.

Fleasg, signifying in the Irish language *wet* or *moist*,—a description applicable to the former state of the soil.

Extent and Boundaries.—The parish, situated on the southern bank of the Tay, some miles below Newburgh, stretches along the margin of the river, which is here nearly a straight line, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles; but its average length is not more than 4 miles. Its breadth varies considerably. For fully more than a mile, commencing at the eastern extremity, it does not exceed half a mile in breadth; then suddenly widening, it is for 2 miles about three-quarters of a mile broad; and at the eastern extremity, it extends to $1\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the river,—presenting a surface of $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 square miles. Its general figure may be easily conceived from the preceding account of its extent, the straight margin of the river being considered as the line on which the successive oblongs of which it may be conceived to consist, are laid off. It is bounded on the north by the Tay; on the east by Balmerino; on the south by Creich, a detached part of Abdie and Dunbog; and on the west by Dunbog.

Topographical Appearances.—Along the river, the ground for about a quarter of a mile in breadth is nearly level, or has but a gentle ascent; then it rises rapidly, and to a considerable height, forming part of that hilly range which runs along the south side of the Tay, including within the limits of the parish, Lyndemus (about 750 feet in height, and properly constituting the first rise on Norman's Law,) Logie Law, and Glenduckie Hill. To the south of Glenduckie Hill, it sinks again into a valley; and it is there, it stretches to the distance of $1\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the river.

At each extremity of the parish, the bank of the Tay is marked by a rapid slope of about 100 feet, and chiefly covered with natural grass. The slope of the central portion is more gradual, and on it cultivation is carried to the edge of the river.

Meteorology.—The winds, probably guided by the hills, frequently take the direction of the river, and sometimes drive along with furious violence. Those from the north and east are often piercing; but the air is pure and salubrious, and a good share of health seems enjoyed by the inhabitants. Formerly, when the lower grounds were marshy, ague prevailed in the spring; but now that the soil is comparatively dry, the disease has disappeared.

Hydrography.—The Tay, as already noticed, flows so as to form the northern boundary of the parish. At the western extremity of the parish, and nearly three miles below Newburgh, this noble river, at high-water, according to R. and A. Stevenson's survey is

1833, is $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile in breadth. At Flisk-point, three miles farther down, and just below the church, it is 2 miles broad; and at the eastern extremity, $2\frac{1}{2}$. At low-water, extensive sand-banks are left dry on the Perthshire side; and the fresh-water current, which here keeps by this side of the estuary, then confines itself to a channel of about one-third of a mile. The beach is clayey, and it is fenced with a bed of shingle left by the tide. Several dikes have been projected into the river, that the intermediate spaces might silt up; but hitherto without effect.

There are many excellent springs in the parish. In several, in different localities, Fahrenheit's thermometer stood at 43° on the 15th of May; and at 46° , 47° on the 30th of June 1837.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The upper series of rocks consists chiefly of secondary trap. It is cut by a vein of clinkstone porphyry. Old red sandstone appears by the river, under Flisk Wood. The greenstone dike, known by the name of the Flisk-dike, passes through Glenduckie Hill, in its course from Newburgh to Norman's Law. Agates and also pieces of bloodstone are found in considerable numbers. Diluvium covers the rocky substratum between the river and the hilly range.

A submarine forest of ten miles in length, and similar to those of Skaill in Orkney, of Lincolnshire, and of Mount's Bay in Cornwall, lies along the margin of the Tay, stretching from Flisk-point under the manse, about three miles upwards and seven down the river. It is covered at full tide with four or five feet of water. It consists of a bed of peat-moss, and has no alluvial stratum superinduced. Many stumps of trees with their roots attached, and manifestly in the place and position in which they originally grew, have been observed. It rests on a bed of gray coloured clay, whose surface, with slight variations, is horizontal, and on a level with low water-mark.

It seems pretty certain that this moss must be at least ten feet below its original level. In explanation of the phenomenon Dr Fleming, in his paper on the subject in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh for 1822, supposes the former existence of a lake in this locality—that it gradually filled up, and became covered with vegetable matter, till it sufficed for the growth of trees—that the seaward barrier was then removed—and that, the moisture now freely escaping, subsidence in consequence took place, and reduced it to its present level.

Soils.—The soil is, in general, a clayey loam. On the lower

grounds by the river, and especially on the three middle farms, the intermixture of clay is considerable, forming a fertile, though hard soil, from eight to twelve inches in depth. In some places, the loam disappears, and gravel and clay beds present themselves, chiefly close by the margin of the river. Towards the west, the soil is sharp and more friable. The subsoil is chiefly clay and till, and in some places sand. On the higher grounds, the loam is purer, varies from one to three feet in depth, and lies on rock, clay, and till, and here and there on patches of moor-band. On the south of Glenduckie Hill, it is good black, easy loam, recovered from wet and marshy ground; and the soil removed in making drains and water-courses has been conveyed higher up the hill, and forms about twenty acres of arable land, where the rock was chiefly visible before.

The more level portions of the parish, whether on the lower or more elevated ground, were formerly very wet; and the hollows were marshes at no very distant date. Innumerable drains and large ditches have now, however, rendered the soil comparatively dry.

Boulders were once thickly spread, but are now removed. Some idea of their number, and of the labour of clearing the ground, may be formed from the fact, that three men and two pair of horses were employed on one "balk," on Flisk-mill farm, for a fortnight, and that 500 cart-loads of stones were drawn from two and a-half acres. Many of the boulders contain from four to six, eight, or twelve feet of solid matter; and others, which required to be broken by gunpowder before they could be removed, must have been much larger. One lying by the river near Flisk-point, and said by marvel-loving tradition to have been hurled by a giant from the opposite side of the Tay, and aimed at the church, contains about 150 feet; and another, higher up the river, and now partly broken and partly sunk into the soil, must have been, at least, of equal dimensions. They are generally of the primitive rocks, granite, gneiss, mica-slate, and quartz, though some are conglomerate, and others compact felspar.

Zoology.—The common salmon and the spirling, or *Salmo eperlanus*, frequent the river. The seal is an unwelcome visitor. The porpoise may be seen playing its gambols, when the tide is up; and the grampus, also, sometimes makes its appearance. Flocks of wild geese frequent the river and the hill-sides, for some months after harvest.

Botany.—The common culinary vegetables are, colewort, cabbage, onions, leeks, carrots, peas, beans, potatoes, and turnips. The grains grown are wheat, barley, and oats. Peas and beans are also sown in the field.

Plantations.—The plantations are neither numerous nor extensive. The oldest is Flisk Wood, which is mentioned in the earliest accounts, and fills up the north-eastern corner of the parish, between the Tay and Corbie-burn, extending at present over ninety-one acres. The largest is that on and around the summit of Glenduckie-Hill, covering 113 acres. The plantations altogether amount to 264 acres; and, with the exception of eighty acres of oak in Flisk Wood, they consist chiefly of larch and Scotch fir, and are from twenty to forty years old.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

This parish cannot boast of any historical events of importance, or of any occurrences worthy of note.

Eminent Character.—The greater part, if not the whole of the parish, became the property of the Noble house of Rothes, in the reign of Robert the Bruce, by the marriage of Sir Andrew de Lesley with Mary, one of the three daughters and co-heiresses of Sir Alexander Abernethy of Abernethy; and the Castle of Ballinbreich was, for several centuries, their principal residence.

In 1320, Sir Andrew signed the letter to the Pope, asserting the independency of Scotland. His descendant, Norman Lesley, son of George Earl of Rothes, was the principal actor in the murder of Cardinal Beaton, on the 29th May 1546. The following year, he surrendered the Castle of St Andrews to the French, and went into the service of their king. He gained great reputation in an engagement between that monarch and the Emperor, near Cambray, in 1554. He enjoyed his honour but a short time, for, being wounded, he died fifteen days afterwards.

Andrew, fourth Earl of Rothes, was buried within the old church. The grave is about the centre of the present burying-ground. John, sixth Earl of Rothes, was promoted in 1667 to the office of High Chancellor; and was created Duke of Rothes, Marquis of Balenbreich, &c. in 1680. He died the following year; and his body was conveyed, first from St Giles's Edinburgh (whither it had been privately carried) to Holyrood House, and afterwards to Leslie in Fife, (where his Grace had built a mansion,) with the greatest conceivable funereal pomp.

Sir James Balfour, Rector of this parish in 1561, was appointed

Lord President of the Court of Session, the Court then consisting of churchmen as well as laymen : he is unhappily stigmatized by Robertson as the most corrupt man of his age.

The Rev. John Wemyss, who was admitted to the parish in 1590, became Principal of St Leonard's College, St Andrews, in 1592.

The Rev. John Fleming, D. D. author of the "Philosophy of Zoology," and of the "History of British Animals," and now Professor of Natural Philosophy in King's College, Aberdeen, held this incumbency from 1811 to 1832.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners, with the extent of their properties, are as follows :—Lord Dundas, now (1838) created Earl of Orkney, 1808 acres ; Joseph Murray, Esq. of Ayton, 460 acres ; John Whyte Melville, Esq. of Mount Melville, 218 acres. The preceding includes, with the exception of 20 or 30 acres, the whole property of the parish.

Parochial Registers.—The register of baptisms and marriages, combining also the accounts of disbursements, and the minutes of session, commence 6th May 1697 ; and that of deaths and burials 1st March 1775. They seem in general to have been kept with care and regularity ; the only marked omission being in that of the session minutes from 1799 to 1822. It appears from these records, that the session, till at least nearly the middle of last century, often held meetings for prayer ; and administered discipline by private or public rebukes for profaneness, desecration of the Sabbath, drunkenness, quarrelling, and intemperate or opprobrious language, as well as for violations of the seventh commandment.

The following extracts are also worthy of insertion, as shewing, *inter alia*, the interest taken by the church, both in the welfare of individuals and in public objects. The sums are given in old Scotch money, 1701, May 18. This day read from the pulpit, the Acts of Assembly and Parliament against profaneness, and the Act of Assembly anent family worship by elders and deacons. 1702, January 4, Given for Gullet bridge, there having been a general collection appointed for that effect, L. 1.—1702, January 4, (and at many other dates,) given to the presbytery bursar, L. 4, 10s.—1703, March 2, given for repairing St Leonard's College, (St Andrews,) L. 1, 16s.—1704, September 24, given for the redeeming a man from slavery in Algiers, L. 2.—1729, July 4, for building a church and to be a fund for a minister's stipend in the north of Scotland ; the place is Enzie (presbytery of Fordeyce,) L. 5.—1729, December 8, for Enstar (Anstruther) harbor, L. 2.—1730, December 5, Given to David Fermer's daughter to buy a Bible, L. 1, 4s.—1750,

November 18, There was collected this day, in obedience to the Assembly's order, for building a church at Breslaw, in the province of Silesia, L. 10, 3s. 10d.

Antiquities.—The Castle of Ballinbreich lies in ruins near the western extremity of the parish, overhanging the river, and embosomed in a small plantation of trees. It is built of red sandstone, 150 feet long, and 70 broad, and without date, arms or inscription. Formerly, a garden lay to the south of the castle; an orchard to the east of the oak avenue; and fish ponds, and a swan pond in the plantations to the west of it. It was long the residence of the Earls of Rothes. But, first deserted, then sold to another lord, it has been suffered to go into decay. Nothing remains but bare or fallen walls, the ponds have been dried up, the garden destroyed, and many of the trees cut down. The plough has converted the *dulce* into the *utile*. Besides the few acres of trees surrounding the ruins, two chestnuts which formed part of the straight avenue leading to the castle, are still allowed to keep their station near the farm-house of Ballinbreich.

Close by the castle to the east, and within the remaining plantation, is Chapel-hill, where the foundations of a sacred edifice are still to be traced.

In Flisk Wood, at the opposite extremity of the parish, are low ruins, most probably those of a place of worship, and consisting of the apparent remains of the edifice, and of an enclosing wall. In enumerating the parishes, churches, and chapels in the deanery of Fife, in the eleventh year of King William, Sir Robert Sibbald mentions "Flisk cum capella." Which of the two noticed above formed this capella, cannot now be ascertained.

Silver coins of Edward III. were turned up a few years ago, on the farm of East Flisk. They were given to Dr Fleming, and consisted of sixpences, shillings, and half-crown pieces. About the same time, on the hill side, and on the farms of East Flisk and Belhelvie, several rude stone coffins were discovered, with urns in them containing burnt bones. The urns were a mixture of clay and rotten rock, baked in the sun; and most of them fell to pieces on being exposed to the air. Burnt bones were also discovered in a cairn of stones on the top of Whirly Kip, (or rather, perhaps, Whit-law cap,) a conical rising ground on Fliskmill farm, between Lyndemus and Pittachop.

On Fliskmill Hill, are a few stones placed as the arms of a chair, and called St Muggin's Seat; St Muggin being probably a cor-

ruption of St Magridin. Tradition is silent regarding the occasions when this was made the place of the saint's meditations; but it was well chosen, from the noble and extensive view it commands of streams, and hills, and vales, for eliciting thought, and giving the freshness and sublimity of nature to the imaginings of the soul within.

Modern Buildings.—Not having any resident proprietors, we have unfortunately little to state on this subject. There is not a single mansion-house. We have but to notice the parish church. In 1790, the old building after standing, it is said, for 500 years, was pulled down, and the present small but neat edifice erected near the site of the former.

III.—POPULATION.

The population at different periods has been as follows :—

In 1755, according to Dr Webster	318
1792, stated in last Statistical Account,	331
1801, according to the census,	300
1811, do. do.	318
1821, do. do.	301
1831, do. do.	286
1836, private register,	245
1837, do. do.	256

From this table, it appears that the population has diminished. The principal cause seems to have been, that neither proprietors nor tenants, some time ago, were sufficiently careful to repair or rebuild the cottages. Several have, in consequence, been pulled down, in different parts of the parish. The evil of so small a cottage population, on so great an extent of cultivated land, is now severely felt. And the wish at present is, on the part of the farmers at least, to have the number of cottages increased.

The yearly average of births for the last seven years is	104
deaths,	14
marriages,	14

The vast disproportion between the numbers of births and deaths must be owing to the fact, that the relative number of farm-servants (who, of course, are chosen in the healthy and vigorous period of life) is great.

The average number of persons under 15 years of age,	100
betwixt 15 and 30,	65
30 and 50,	60
50 and 70,	30
upwards of 70,	3
The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards,	3
Number of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	5
women upwards of 45,	11
Number of families,	55
Average number of resident children in each family,	2
Number of inhabited houses,	55

Number of fatuous 2; and of blind 1. The last was occasioned by the small-pox.

The language spoken is the English.

The migratory habits of much of our agricultural population are by no means favourable to their moral and religious character, and prevent a permanent character from attaching to a parish like this, where so many belong to this class. With this qualification, it may be said that the people are respectable, cleanly in their habits, and enjoy in a reasonable degree the comforts and advantages of society.

The ordinary food of the peasants is oatmeal and potatoes, broth and bacon, the cottars keeping one or two pigs in the year. Wheaten bread is also used.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

The number of males employed in agriculture is 59, including 7 farmers, 7 cottars, and 45 farm-servants. The number employed in manufactures is 12, all weavers, except 2, employed in making potato-flour. There are 2 smiths, 1 mason, 1 forester, 7 day-labourers, and 1 or 2 who often employ themselves in fishing. The men connected with the salmon stations, during the fishing season, do not in general belong to the parish.

Male servants, above 20 years old,	-	26
under 20,	-	19
Female servants,	-	18
Total,		63

Agriculture.—

The number of acres under cultivation is	-	2120
in natural pasture,	-	134
under wood,	-	264
Total,		2518

The greater part of the unreclaimed portion is on the face of Lyndemus and Fliskmill Hill. Patches of it might be cultivated, but it is more convenient for pasturage as it is. Eight acres, now appropriated and in wood, (on the farm of Logie,) once formed part of a common which stretched into the adjoining part of Abdie.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land is L. 1, 8s. per imperial acre. It is, in general, partly a money and partly a grain rent, paid according to the fair prices, limited, however, in some cases, by a maximum, or by both a maximum and minimum.

Rate of Wages.—Farm-servants, in bothies, receive L. 10; 8 cwt. (6½ bolls Scotch,) oatmeal; 4 pints (1 pint Scotch) milk, and potatoes for supper, for one-half of the year. Those married have L. 8, house, garden of 300 square yards; milk and meal as

above ; and three cart load of potatoes or three-lippies bounds *i. e.* about 300 square yards. The foreman has the same, except L. 12 instead of L. 8, and a "cow-keep," instead of an allowance of milk. Day-labourers have 1s. 6d. without victuals, but 2d. less in winter, and 2d. more in summer. Women receive 8d. without victuals. Reapers receive L. 1, 10s. with victuals, for the harvest ; binders have 10s. more. The harvest-home being now discontinued, each receives 1s. in lieu at the end of the harvest. Threaving, which, however, is not much practised, is at the rate of 3d. for twenty-four sheaves of oats or barley ; and 4d. for twenty-eight of wheat.

The price of an iron plough is L. 3, 12s. ; of a harrow, L. 1, 6s. ; of a double horse cart, L. 12 ; of a set of horse shoes, 3s. 4d. A mason receives 2s. 6d. a-day ; or for a dry dike, 8s. ; a cottage, L. 1, 10s. ; and a two-story house L. 2 the rood ; and for hewing freestone 3½d. the foot. An ordinary weaver makes 7s. or 8s. a-week ; and a woman wins 7d. a-day by winding the bobbins.

Live-Stock.—The common breed of cattle is the Fifeshire, crossed with the Forfarshire and Teeswater, but chiefly with the former. Sheep are seldom kept. This is a grain rather than a grazing or green crop part of the country,—the hardness of the soil not being so favourable to the expansion of the bulbous roots.

Husbandry.—The rotation of the crops is generally for six years, and in nearly the following order : On the low grounds, which are the richest and strongest, summer fallow or green crop, (turnips and potato,) wheat, peas, barley, grass, and oats. If peas are not sown, the grass remains for two years. On the lighter soils of the hill sides, in which wheat is rarely sown, green crop, barley, and grass for two years, barley and oats. A rotation of five years, which is sometimes adopted, may be as follows : Fallow or green crop, wheat, grass for two years, oats ; or, instead of two years in grass, barley and grass.

Much of the soil being naturally wet and marshy, and a good deal of it lying on till, draining has been greatly required. Much has been done in this respect, by the farmers from time to time ; and although more is still needed, most of the soil is now comparatively dry and in good condition. Stone-draining is that chiefly used. A little of the surface tile-draining was introduced last year, and seemingly with good effect.

Little could now be transferred from the unreclaimed land to the cultivated, much of it lying on steep slopes. And certainly the most ornamental, and perhaps also the most profitable, method

of laying it out, would be in wood. A considerable part of the low ground was reclaimed, only within the last forty years; and of the high ground, within a much later date.

The leases are for nineteen years, and seem fairly adjusted between the landlord and tenant.

The farm-buildings are generally good, though still susceptible of improvement. There is a considerable deficiency of enclosures, especially on the low grounds. They consist solely of stone dikes. Some have of late been added.

The introduction of bone-dust for turnip has been of great service, in the cultivation of the hill lands, rendering it so much more easy to apply manure to them. About sixteen bushels of bone-dust, (2s. per bushel,) mixed with eight of the ashes of burnt coal or turf, will serve for an acre, and a cart-load of this will cover about four acres. Animalized carbon has also been used for manure. Instead of eating off the turnip with sheep, it is found equally good to leave and plough down the shaws.

Quarries.—There is a quarry of red sandstone close by the river under Flisk Wood, and two of good clinkstone in other parts of the parish; but none are of any great importance.

Fisheries.—There are five or six stations for salmon-fishing. At some, the sweep-net is used, at others (chiefly the lower) the tut-net, with three or four men to a boat. Stake-nets would be more favourable for fishing, but are for the present interdicted.

The salmon are not caught in abundance, but are of excellent quality. The best seasons are in July and August, when, the rains being over, and the snow melted, the quantity of water in the river is diminished, and the boats get nearer the middle of the stream, and within the run of the fish. If there is much water in the river in the spawning season, the spawn is deposited too high on the banks; and if there follows a dry February, much of it is destroyed. The salmon fry, smoults as they are called, pass this from the beginning of March about three inches long, and are caught on their return, two or three months afterwards, as grilse, six inches or upwards in length, four, five, or six pounds in weight.*

The seals are sometimes so audacious and cunning as to tumble over the net, seize a salmon, and make off with it.

There are two spirling stations, Flisk-point and Kincaise, with

* The following has been communicated on apparently good authority. A salmon was caught on its descent some miles up the river. A ring was inserted, and the little animal restored to the water. The same fish, identified by the ring, was again caught two months afterwards on its ascent, and weighed no less than 8 lbs.

two or three nets at each. The net used is trumpet-shaped, and eight yards long. Its mouth is fixed to poles placed in the current, and across the stream; and the fish are caught in the ebbing tide. They are sold from 1s. to 2s. 6d. the hundred, and being taken to Perth are despatched by the coaches, for the Edinburgh and Glasgow markets. A few are sent to Dundee. They spawn in April and May, when the fishing is discontinued, but they are good in November and some months afterwards, particularly in January and February.

Produce.—The following is the average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish as nearly as can be ascertained, and at the average fair price for the last seven years.

	Acres.	Produce.	Price.	Value.
Wheat, -	288	824 qr.	L. 2, 6s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. the qr.	L. 1923
Barley, -	323	1230	L. 1, 7s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. ditto,	1673
Oats, -	334	1311	L. 1, 0s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. do.	1359
Peas, -	135	283	L. 1, 7s. 6d.	389
Potato, -	103	7500 cwt.	$\frac{3}{4}$ at 2s. and $\frac{1}{4}$ at 1s. the cwt.	625
Turnip, -	117		L. 5 per acre,	585
Hay cultivated,		6500 truss.	1s. 6d. the truss,	489
Pasture, -	431		L. 3 an ox pasture,	700

L. 7743

Manufactures.—A potato-flour manufactory has lately been erected on the farm of East Flisk. Two men and three women are employed in it. Their time of labour is the same with that of other servants on the farm; and their occupation seems by no means prejudicial to health. The potatoes are grated down by a rough revolving cylinder kept in motion by a steam engine of two horse power. The machine is the fruit of Mr Morton's own mechanical ingenuity.

Navigation.—Although the Tay, in its main channel, sweeps along the length of the parish, it is of little avail for shipping, from want of a pier. Coal, tile, stone, and slate are occasionally landed, but grain cannot be shipped.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—The nearest market-towns are Newburgh, Cupar-Fife, and Dundee, distant from the church, six, eight, and (including the passage across the Tay,) ten miles respectively. All these, especially Cupar, are frequented by the farmer, for the sale of agricultural produce.

There is not a village in the parish. The nearest approximation to one, is the farm-town of Glenduckie, consisting of the farm

house and twelve cottages, seven of which are occupied by the farm-servants.

Means of Communication.—The parish is deficient in proper and convenient means of communication. The nearest post-offices are in Newburgh and Cupar. The same must be said regarding public conveyances. There is no turnpike, but the statute labour road between Woodhaven and Newburgh, runs through the length of the parish, distant about a quarter of a mile from the river. The nearest piers are at Balmerino and Newburgh. The steamers between Dundee and Perth pass and repass daily for a great part of the year, but there are no proper and regular means of getting on board.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is beautifully situated on the banks of the Tay, one mile from the eastern, three from the western, and between four and five from the south-western extremity of the parish. Glenduckie, containing, small as it is, about one-fifth of the population, lies four miles from the church; and Dunbog church being close at hand, the inhabitants generally attend divine service there.

The church was built in 1790,* and is in good repair, affording accommodation for 153 sitters. It was seated by the heritors, and portioned off to the farmers; and the seats are given by them to their servants and cottars. The sittings at the communion table are left unallocated.

The manse was built in 1811. The glebe, exclusive of house, offices, and garden ground, is about 5 acres imperial, and might rent for L. 7. The stipend is 10 chalders, 8 bolls Scotch of grain, and L. 10, 7s. 2d. in money, L. 1, 13s. 4d. of which is grass-money; the average for the last four years is L. 149, and for the first three of these only L. 141. There is no separate allowance for communion elements.

The number of families connected with the Established Church is 51, comprehending 247 individuals; and four families, comprehending nine individuals, attend Dissenting and Seceding places of worship. The average number of communicants in the Established Church is 120.

List of the Ministers of the Parish from 1561.—Those from 1561 to 1700, are given from a recently published "Catalogue of the Ministers in the Synod of Fife, from the Reformation in 1560 to the year 1700;" the rest are from the Presbytery Records.

Mr (Sir) James Balfour, "persoun of Flisk," 1561. Mr Robert

* From about this time the use of the tent on sacramental occasions seems to have been discontinued.

Paterson, 1567. He had also the charge of the Kirks of Dunbog and Creich, where readers officiated. Mr Peter Watson, 1586. Mr John Wemyss, admitted September 1590, became Principal of St Leonard's College in 1562. Mr John Makgill, 1613, conformed to Presbytery 1638; died 22d March 1659. Mr William Myles, admitted May 3d 1660; conformed to Episcopacy 1662, died 1694. Vacant from 1694 to 1697. Mr William Thompson, admitted May 6, 1697; died in April 1752. Mr William Gourlay, March 6, 1753, died 16th October 1780. Mr William Gourlay, ordained to Flisk, 20th September 1781, died 2d March 1810. Mr John Fleming, D. D. removed from Bressay, 18th April 1811, translated to Clackmannan in October 1832. Mr George Marshall, translated from Bressay, 7th June 1833.

There are no Societies; but there have been occasional collections in the church for religious and charitable objects. These have been liberal: but no average can with fairness yet be given, as it is only within these few years, they have been at all regular.

Education.—There is but one school, the parochial—situated a mile to the west of the church, and more nearly in the centre of the population than is the latter. The branches taught are, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, grammar, and Latin. Reading, 2s. per quarter; reading and writing, 2s. 6d.; reading, writing, and arithmetic, 3s.; Latin, 5s. The teacher enjoys the legal amount of accommodation. The salary is the maximum, L. 34, 4s. 4d., and the average amount of school fees, L. 12.

All can read and write who are of age to do so,—attention by parents to the education of their children being general.

There is no parish library; but, for the last few years, L. 5, from the Donaldson fund,* has been annually expended on prizes for the parochial and Sabbath schools, and greatly with the view of forming small family libraries among the parishioners. An arrangement is contemplated, by which part of this sum may yet go to the formation of a parish library.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of paupers nearly averages 4, receiving from L. 1 to L. 2, 10s. each per annum; or, instead of money, meal, varying from 2 to 4 pecks a month. Average collections for the last ten years L. 6, 12s.; average for proclamation forditto, 4s.; interest on money L. 3, 8s.; total, L. 10, 4s. Within this period, there has been but one legacy for behoof of the poor, L. 10. The deficit in the funds has hitherto been

* Mr Donaldson had the farm of Logie, in this parish, for some time.

met by drawing upon the principal in the bank, and by donations from the heritors.

Fairs, &c.—There are no fairs, inns, or alehouses in the parish.

Fuel.—Coal is the fuel used. It is chiefly brought in vessels to the beach from the north of England, at 13s. 6d., or from the banks of the Forth, at 11s. 6d. the ton. Sometimes, however, it is driven from the Balbirnie pit, twelve miles off, or from Newburgh and Balmerino, as sloops will not discharge their cargo on the strand during winter. The farmer chiefly consumes English, the cottager Scotch coal.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the former Statistical Account was drawn up in 1792, the population of the parish has decreased from 331 to 256. The number of farms is also less, the parish being almost entirely partitioned at present into seven large farms, from 190 to 490 imperial acres each. Bothies have been partially introduced. The extent of cultivated ground is greater by fully more than one-half of what it was in 1792, having increased from 1387 to 2120 imperial acres. Sheep are not now regularly kept; at a former period, they were. The breed was small. Fed on the natural pasture during the day, they were enclosed in "tathe-folds" during the night. These folds, changed, every few days, for the sake of manuring the ground, were built by the shepherd. The fence was a turf dike, which was thrown down when the ploughing season came.

The plough, attended by a driver, as well as managed by a ploughman, was drawn, in winter, by four cattle and two horses; and in the end of spring, when they went twice to the field in the day, by two cattle and two horses. The oldest cattle were sold to the grazier after the barley-seed was sown, and, being seven or eight years old, were of a good size. The plough itself was a rude instrument nine or ten feet long, all made of wood except the culter, sock, and "reeshoe." The wood was supplied by the farmer. The iron was worth about 6s. The carpenter and smith were not paid for each job, but received so much corn in the year for doing the work on the farm.* The ploughman was generally a married man, and had one or one and a half Scotch acres, about one and a quarter or one and three quarters imperial acres. On the produce of this, he kept his cow, which he had to purchase for

* On one farm the carpenter received six shilots of oats.

himself, during the winter. In summer, it grazed along with the farmer's own cattle. The goadmen, who were young, and also the horse herd, who was generally older, lived in their master's house.

About seventy years ago, the crops raised were not so varied as now, and the system of agriculture was different; oats, barley, and pease were what were generally sown. There was no cultivated grass, and no turnip or potato. Turnip was first introduced by Mr Barclay on Pittachop farm, about fifty-eight years ago. By 1792 (as appears from the former Account) a considerable quantity of wheat was grown, about 190 acres; but now, it has increased to 290 acres. A field of 15 acres contained barley and oats, for twenty-two years in succession.

At the middle of last century, or even later, the rental does not seem to have been from one-tenth to one-sixth of what it is now; and even forty years ago, probably, not much above one-fourth. This, however, is to some extent only apparent, as the nominal value of many other things has undergone a corresponding relative change. Part of the rent was paid in grain and meal. A house, now the farm-house of Fliskmill, was formerly the giral for the Ballinbreich estate. The meal would sometimes accumulate to 600 cwt. before it was sold.

The first two-story farm house was built only sixty-one years ago (in 1776.) All the accommodation the farmer had before, was his "but" and his "ben."

The chief improvements of which the parish seems susceptible, are increased draining and enclosing; the erection of a greater number of cottages; planting the uncultivated lands; and the erection of a pier for the shipment of grain and the easier landing of lime and coal, &c. and for rendering the Perth and Dundee steamers available for the convenience of the inhabitants.

Drawn up July 1837. Revised October 1838.