

L.3, 10s. an acre. The manse was built in 1802, and is in very superior condition.

Education.—There are 4 schools in the parish, exclusive of Sabbath schools, viz. the parochial, a female, Donibristle colliery, and Templehall schools. The yearly amount of the parochial schoolmaster's salary is the maximum. The probable yearly amount of fees actually paid to the parochial schoolmaster is, on an average, L.30 Sterling per annum. The probable amount of the other emoluments of parochial schoolmaster is about L.10 Sterling, arising from session-clerk's salary and emoluments of office.

An Association on the plan of a saving's bank was recently formed in the parish.

Poor.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 26 weekly and 12 monthly pensioners, also a lunatic female pauper; total, 39. Average sum allotted to each of such persons, 1s. 6d. per week; L.9, 2s. per annum to the lunatic pauper, besides occasional relief to others. The average annual amount of contributions for relief of the poor is about L.80 from voluntary contributions of the heritors; about L.30 from church collections; L.18, 8s. 7d. from alms or legacies.

February 1843.

PARISH OF KEMBACK.*

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. J. MACDONALD, D. D., MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name of this parish in old writings is variously spelled Camback, Kembek, and Kembok. It is by some held to be the modern form of *Kemp-achar*, "the field of battle;" but it is more generally supposed that the first syllable is derived from the name of the Kem or Kame, a brook which, taking its rise in the hills of Scoonie parish, about seven miles west, traverses Kemback parish and is there united to the Eden. The course of this brook through a broken and wood-

* Drawn up by G. Makgill, Esq. of Kemback.

ed glen is highly picturesque, and although on a smaller scale bears much resemblance, in its natural features, to the celebrated pass of Glen Farg at the north-west extremity of Fifeshire. And while Dura Den, as this ravine is called, is the chief attraction to the lover of landscape, the rest of the parish, from the undulating character of the ground, and the abundance of timber, has altogether a richer appearance than most parts of the country, and contrasts favourably with the bare though highly cultivated districts which surround it.

Extent and Boundaries.—Kernack is bounded on the east, by a line of two miles in length, running nearly due north and south, which divides it from the parish of St Andrews. Its northern boundary is the river Eden, separating it from Leuchars and Dairsie; it joins Cupar on the west, and Ceres on the south. Its greatest length, which is from north-east to south-west, is about three miles, and it is at few places more than a mile and a-half in breadth. It is formed by a ridge of hills called Nydie or Kernack hills, running through it from east to west, sloping gently towards the south, and somewhat abruptly to the north. The highest point of elevation is Clatto hill, which is 548 feet above the level of the sea. Nearly the whole of this range of eminences, not long ago a barren heath, is now covered by thriving plantations.

Climate.—From the sheltered position, and the increase of wood, the climate is milder than most of the surrounding country; and many of the inhabitants have attained to a very advanced age. The beneficial effect of cultivation and drainage on climate and health is shown by the fact, that some of the older inhabitants who have resided in the parish all their lives, recollect that, about fifty or sixty years ago, ague was a very prevalent disorder every spring; whereas this complaint is now scarcely known.

Soil.—The parish contains almost every variety of soil, as barren black sand, peat, gravel, black and brown loam, and rich strong clay of great fertility. Much has been done of late years in draining the cold wet soil, with manifest advantage; but on the greater part of the north side of the parish, this is unnecessary, the immediate subsoil being dry loose gravel.

Fishing.—The Eden affords tolerably good trout-fishing in spring and autumn, and there is a right of salmon fishing attached to the lands of Kernack, which, however, is now quite unproductive.

Geology.—The rocks consist of sandstone, ironstone, shale, and trap. The sandstone is of two kinds, and belongs to two great de-

posits; one of which is connected with the coal formation, and the other with that of the old red sandstone. The geological corresponds with the geographical position of the parish, which occupies an intermediate place betwixt the coal-field on the south, and the old red sandstone on the north. The lower beds of the former rest unconformably on the upper beds of the latter. The trap consists of veins of greenstone and a few isolated patches of clinkstone. A vein of lead ore also occurs in the series.

Dura Den, a beautiful and interesting valley, traverses the parish nearly at right angles to the plain of the sedimentary deposits, and exhibits a well-defined section of the entire series of these beds. Without leaving the road, the whole are laid open to the eye of the observer, and may conveniently be examined in detail.

The geology of this district has lately acquired very considerable celebrity. Dr Anderson was the first who drew the attention of the learned to its interesting relics, in his essay on the Geology of Fifeshire, published in the Transactions of the Highland Society. Since that time it has been visited by some of the most eminent in the science, and commented upon in various publications.

The sandstone beds, which belong to the old red, are here of a bright yellow colour, and attain a thickness of from three to four hundred feet. Their position in the series is determined by their organic remains, which are identical in every respect with those found in the red formation. They also lie conformably on that deposit, as may be observed at the out-crop at Dairsie church, both having an inclination of nearly 10° . Towards the base of the rock, the sandstone assumes a variegated reddish appearance, where soft beds of marl or clay are interposed, and which vary from an inch to several feet in thickness. The lineal extent of the deposit, of which a section is here laid open, is nearly a mile, and rises in precipitous mural cliffs of great height, indented with caves, in which the persecuted of a former age are said to have found an asylum.

The whole deposit is extremely rich in organic remains. Several entire fishes, with fins, tail, scales, and thinnest filmy members, have been procured. Along with three or four belonging to completely new species, if not genera, and of which no account has yet been published, specimens of the *Haloptychius*, N., and *Pterichthys* are to be found in the greatest abundance. Beautiful plates of five distinct animals are figured in Dr Anderson's Essay.

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"The place in the rock," says this accurate observer, "which these curious relics occupied was towards the base, and immediately under the argillaceous marly beds mentioned above. Externally they have undergone but little change in their form, colour, or scaly covering; being still as perfect in their organic development, even to the minute silken fin, as when they sported in the waters of a distant primeval age. The substance of the body, however, and every trace or vestige of internal organization, have entirely disappeared, and the material of the rock has been substituted in their place,—the enamel of the scales being less soluble than the more calcareous matter of which the bones are composed."

A vein of *greenstone* separates the sandstone now described from the beds which belong to the coal formation, throwing them up to an angle of 26° . The junction is extremely well defined; the sandstones are contorted in every possible form, as well as highly indurated, by the infusion of the volcanic rock. Two thin seams of coal may be observed at this locality. The ironstone and shaly matter occur about a quarter of a mile to the south, where they have assumed a nearly horizontal position. "The galena," says Dr Anderson, "occurs on the farm of Myretown of Blebo, and was noticed so early as the year 1722, when large outliers or masses of ore were found on the surface of the ground. The papers in the possession of the present proprietor, General Bethune, describe these as weighing from ten to twenty-four stones in weight. A vein was opened about two feet thick, but would seem to have been speedily abandoned in consequence of the hardness of the rock, which required to be blasted with gun-powder. Subsequently, and a little to the north, another vein was discovered, (probably a continuation only of the first,) which is described as containing a "rib" of metal of three inches, and gradually increasing to seven inches in thickness. Various attempts were made from time to time to work the mines, but the disturbed and ruptured state of the strata, and frequent intrusion of the trap, prevented the operations from being successfully carried on. The vein bears in a north-east by south-west direction."

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Remains of tumuli may be traced in one or two places, and relics have at different times been discovered, both of Roman origin, and of feudal times, but not of any peculiar interest. There are in the grounds of Kemback, the remains of an old burying-

ground, but there is no trace of its history or of any building connected with it.

Land-owners, &c.—The number of heritors is five, of whom the principal is General Alexander Bethune of Blebo, &c.*

Parochial Registers.—The earliest registers are those of baptisms and burials, which both commence in the year 1735. That of proclamations begins 1st October 1783. The records appear at one period to have been made irregularly; and there is no account of the burials from 1738 to 1750. The only session book extant commences in the year 1732, and continues with some interruption to April 1775.

III.—POPULATION.

Years,	1755.	1811.	1821.	1831.	1841.
Males,				282	
Females,				369	
Total,	420	625	634	651	780

The following is a table of the baptisms, proclamations, and burials for the five years preceding 1841, extracted from the registers:—

Year,	1836.	1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.	Aver.
Baptisms,	22	15	18	20	22	19
Proclamations,	1	6	9	10	6	6
Burials,	17	26	22	13	13	18
Number of inhabitants residing in villages,					380	
in country,					400	
of inhabited houses, about					160	
of heritors,					5	

All of the heritors reside in the parish, and are possessed of incomes above L.50.

In addition to these, there are fifty-one persons holding feus of various values, as entered in the new valuation roll of the county.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Rent of Land.—The valued rent of the parish, as it stands in the old roll of 1695, is L.2312, 6s. 8d. Scots. The amount on which the property-tax was assessed in 1815, was L.3441 Sterling, and in the new valuation roll, drawn up by order of the Commissioners of Supply in 1841, the gross annual value of the land is stated at L.3889, 2s. 8d. Sterling.

Agriculture.—

The number of imperial acres may be estimated at 2200
of which in cultivation or pasture, about 1700
under wood, is 520

* See Swan's Fife Illustrated, Vol. iii. p. 75, for the account of this estate, and the others in the parish.

About 500 acres of the arable land is occupied by the proprietors themselves, and the extent let to tenants is 1480. The leases under which it is held are generally for nineteen years; though some now nearly expired are for ninety-nine years. A proportion of the rents are payable according to the fiars' prices of grain, and the average rent, under recent leases, may be estimated at L.1, 12s. per imperial acre.

Part of the land adjoining the river Eden, and consisting of rich alluvial clay, is exceedingly fertile, and has been known to produce 64 bushels of wheat on a Scotch acre. Of late years, however, the crops of this grain have been very unproductive, partly from the inclemency of the seasons, and partly, it may be supposed, from the gradual exhaustion of the chemical elements in the soil, which are most favourable to its production. One farm, held under a long lease, has for many years been constantly in pasture, some of the inclosures of which were let during the last season for above L.6 per Scotch acre.

A considerable extent of the lands of Blebo were feued by a former proprietor of that estate, and about 100 acres are now held in this way, in lots of from two to fifteen acres, at moderate feu-duties, nearly all of it having been reclaimed from unproductive heath. The number of resident families in possession of these feus is about twenty, and most of them are partly or principally employed in other handicrafts, or as labourers on the adjoining farms.

Wages.—The average wages of farm-labourers is, for men, 1s. 6d.; and for women, 8d. per day.

The usual number of horses kept for agricultural purposes is about fifty-four. There are nine thrashing-machines, seven of which are worked by horse-power, one by steam, and one by water.

Manufactures.—There are two mills for spinning yarns in the parish, both occupied by Mr David Yool, and both situated on the Kame or Ceres Burn: 1. Yoolfield Mill, built in 1839, driven by a water-wheel of 39 feet diameter, and 10 feet wide, assisted, when the water is scarce, by a steam-engine. There are now employed at it 98 women and girls, earning on an average 5s. per week; 7 wrights, at 12s. 6d.; 10 men, at 12s.; 7 boys, at 4s.; 6 labourers, at 9s.; and 30 hecklers. 2. Blebo mills, further up the stream, worked by a water-wheel and steam-engine of ten-horse power, at which are employed 4 men at an average at 13s. per week; 3 boys, at 4s.; and 37 females, at 10s. 3d.

At Blebo mills, there is also a meal-mill, a barley-mill, and a flax scutching-mill.

At Kemback mill, on the same stream, but further down, and also tenanted by Mr Yool, a wheel of sixteen horse power impels a meal-mill, a saw-mill, and a bone-mill, by which from 500 to 600 tons of bones are ground annually, and about 150 tons of rape-cake.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Stipend and Glebe.—The stipend is, wheat, 4 bolls, 1 firiot, 2 pecks, 1 lippy; meal, 3 bolls, 3 pecks; bear, 21 bolls, 1 firiot, 3 lippies; oats, 29 bolls, 1 firiot, 3 lippies; and money, L.109, 8s. 9d. The glebe extends to about 5 Scotch acres.

In the year 1446, Robertus de Ferny and Mariota Olifert, his wife, lady of Kemback, granted to Gilbert de Galbrath, rector of the church of Kemback, and to his successors, four acres of the lands of Kemback with three cows' grass, and one horse's grass for ever, to be held on condition of the rector being always bound to say two masses weekly in the said church, for them, their parents, and benefactors, "purgatorii poenas demollire, et fidelium animas in paradisi gaudiis collocare." The deed and confirmation by the Bishop of St Andrews is witnessed by James, abbot of the monastery of Lundoris; John, archdeacon of St Andrews; Hugo Kennedy, chaplain of St Andrews; John Beatoun, rector of Dalry; and rector of the University of St Andrews; John de Balfour, vicar of Lynlytholke; James Treyle de Malgaske; Thomas de Wemyss de Myrtyn; James Butellere de Rungally; Alexander de Forsith de Nydy, and others.

Patronage, &c.—The teinds and right of patronage belonged to the archbishopric of St Andrews. By the original charter of 1458, founding the old college of St Salvador's, they were appropriated by Bishop Kennedy, the founder, to the licentiatus or second master of that college, who was appointed *ex officio* rector, or parson of the parish, with a pension of L. 10 Scots for a vicar to be presented by the rector. In 1579, the University was remodelled by James VI., when the office of licentiatus was suppressed; but the right to the teinds and patronage of Kemback was reserved to the college; and as the second master had the right of presenting the vicar, the college, which came in place of the second master, continued to present. Since the union of the Colleges of St Salvador's and St Leonard's, in 1747, the Principal and Professors of

the United College have been patrons of the parish, and titulars of the teinds.

The following is a list of the ministers of the parish since the Reformation. The three first in the list were masters of St Salvador's, and *ex officio* ministers of Kemback :

1. Mr William Ramsay was minister in 1566; died 1570.
2. Mr James Martin was minister in 1567.
3. Mr David Monypenny in 1578; resigned in 1595.
4. Mr George Nairn, admitted 1596, translated to Kennoway 1604.
5. Mr David Monypenny, who resumed the charge 1604, at the desire of the congregation, who petitioned the Presbytery to that effect on Mr Nairn's translation. He was deposed for fornication, October 7, 1617.
6. Dr David Monro, admitted 1618; translated to Kilconquhar, 1628.
7. Mr John Barrow, admitted 1628; conformed to Presbytery 1638; demitted 1648.
8. Mr David Patton, admitted July 11th 1648; translated to Kettins, June 19th 1650.
(Vacant from 1650 to 1656.)
9. Mr John Wardlaw, admitted July 2d 1656; deposed 1662.
10. Mr Robert Glassford, admitted 7th September 1644; translated to Kilmeny 1667.
11. Mr John Christison, June 30th 1699.
12. Mr George Landells, admitted June 4, 1674; translated to Cupar 1682.
13. Mr Alexander Edward, admitted February 22, 1682; ousted 1689.
(Vacant from 1689 to 1700.)
14. Mr Alexander Anderson, admitted 1700.
15. Mr William Cunningham, admitted March 1703.
16. Mr Alexander Walker, admitted March 1736.
17. Dr James Macdonald, the present incumbent, admitted 1781.

It is worthy of remark, that only two inductions have taken place since 1703, a period of 139 years, and only one since 1736; Mr Walker having been minister of the parish fifty-five, and the present venerable incumbent the long period of sixty-one years.

The present church was opened for public worship in May 1814, and cost about L. 700. The manse was built in 1801.

The average yearly amount of collections in the church for the last five years is L.17, 3s. 5d.

Education.—There is one unendowed school besides the parochial school; the number of scholars at both together averaging from 70 to 80. There is also a girl's school at Kemback mill, partly supported by ladies in the parish.

The parochial teacher has the full legal salary; but the present incumbent, being incapacitated from performing his duties, the heritors at present employ another teacher in his place at a salary of L.14 per annum. He states his annual profit from fees at L. 16; and he has also about L.3 as session-clerk. The common branches of elementary education only are taught, there being but one pupil taking lessons in Latin.

Poor.—The number of poor regularly supplied is from 15 to 20. The amount of voluntary assessment is about L. 11, 10s., besides which the session possess a fund bequeathed by one of the family of Blebo, amounting to L. 250.

Collections, L. 17, 3s. 5d.; assessment, L.11, 10s.; interest of fund, L.10—L.38, 13s. 5d.

February 1843.

PARISH OF TORRYBURN.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. THOMAS DOIG, A. M., MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, &c.—THE parish of Torryburn consists of the united parishes of Torrie and Crombie. Crombie appears to have consisted of the district of the present parish south of the burn of Torrie, and of certain detached lands, distant about seven or eight miles, and now annexed *quoad sacra* to the parish of Saline. In lieu of these, the lands of Inzievar and Oakley, belonging, *quoad civilia*, to the parish of Saline, but cut off by the intervening parish of Carnock, have been annexed, *quoad sacra*, to Torryburn. Torry, the original name of the parish to which these annexations have been made, is said to signify, in Gaelic, the