

PARISH OF CARNBEE.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. ANSTRUTHER TAYLOR, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Etymology, &c.—THE parish of Carnbee seems to have borne the same name in Roman Catholic times as at present, for mention is made of it at a very early date in the chartulary of the Abbey of Dunfermline, and it remained attached to that religious house till the abolition of Popery. A portion of the teinds is still paid to the lordship of Dunfermline, to which, on its erection, all the revenues of the abbey were conveyed by a grant from the Crown. It also appears, from "the Buik of the Universal Kirk," that a Mr David Wemyss sat as member of Assembly for *the kirk of Carnbee* in the first General Assembly after the Reformation, held in 1563. The etymology of the name is given in the former Statistical Account as being derived from two Gaelic words, *carn* and *bee*, the first signifying *birch*, and the second *hill*; and the appearance of the locality, as well as certain names yet existing, accord with this etymology.

Extent and Boundaries.—The parish of Carnbee is bounded on the north by Cameron, Denino, and part of Crail; on the west, by Kilconquhar; on the south, by Abercrombie and St Monans, Pitvenne, West Anstruther, and Kilrenny; and on the east, by Kilrenny and Crail. Its form is nearly a parallelogram, measuring about five miles in length, by four in breadth. The southern part of the parish is intersected from west to east by the turnpike-road leading from Colinsburgh by Kellie toll, towards Crail, which enters the parish at Pitcorthie, and passes out of it at the crossing of the Anstruther and St Andrews turnpike-road, at Pitkeerie wood, being a distance of nearly five miles; while the northern part of it is intersected in the same direction by the turnpike-road leading from Cupar to Crail, which enters the parish at Lathockar bridge, and, passing by Lingo and Lochty, leaves it about half a mile west-

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ward of the point where this road crosses the Anstruther and St Andrews turnpike, at Drumrack. There is also a road which stretches from Balcarres Den, (the western boundary of the parish,) eastward through the middle of it, to the before-named turnpike at Burnside. These, with the cross roads which run from south to north intersecting them, extend to about 21 miles; making about 9 miles of turnpike, 6 miles of statute labour, and 6 miles of roads not upon the turnpike or statute labour lists.

Topographical Appearances.—There is a very marked difference between the south and north sides of the parish, which is intersected for almost its whole length, from east to west, by a ridge of high land, dividing it into two nearly equal parts. This ridge at several places, such as Carnbee Law, Kellie Law, Baldutho Craig, and Cunner Law, rises into hills, varying from 500 to 800 feet above the level of the sea, and commands a most extensive and beautiful view of the whole Firth of Forth, the Lothians, and greater part of the coast of Fife. Kellie Law is the highest point of this ridge, being about 810 feet above the level of the sea, and three miles distant from it. From its summit the view extends northward, comprehending St Andrews Bay, the Firth of Tay, and the greater part of the county of Angus, with the Grampians in the distance. It was one of the stations chosen by Captain Colby, when making the Trigonometrical Survey of Scotland; and he and his party of Engineers were encamped upon it for the six or eight weeks spent in taking their observations.

Soil and Climate.—The southern division of the parish, stretching from east to west, through its whole length, consists chiefly of a stiff clay soil upon a closely retentive subsoil, with an excellent exposure, and in a very high state of cultivation. The northern division is inferior as to soil, and still more so as to climate,—the elevation of a considerable part of it being nearly the same with the ridge already spoken of. At certain places, indeed, such as parts of Cassingray, Lingo, and Craigloon, the soil is excellent; but the elevation being considerable, the whole range is better adapted for pasturage than corn, and is in general so laid out.

Hydrography.—The parish is well supplied with springs of excellent water, and it is intersected by several small streams; those on the south side of the ridge finding their way by different courses into the Dreil, which runs into the sea at West Anstruther, while those on the north side join the Kenly, which runs eastward by Denino, and falls into St Andrews Bay.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The geological construction of the parish and the character of the minerals correspond with the division above referred to,—sandstone prevailing in the south, and whinstone in the north. Coal is found at several places, and at present there are two collieries,—one at Kellie, and another at Cassingray. The Kellie consists of two main seams of cherry coal, distinguished among the workmen as the back and the fore,—the one being 7 feet thick, and the other 5 feet. The metals cut through in the engine pit are, 3 feet of clay, 9 feet of faiks, 12 feet of till mixed with faiks, 12 feet of gray faiks, 6 feet of white blaise or till, 12 feet of freestone pavement, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet of hard white sandstone, 6 feet of till with gray faiks, 6 feet of freestone, 5 feet of soft till or blaise, $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet of hard stone mixed with lime, 5 feet of gray faiks, $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet of pelt, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet of hard sandstone mixed with whinstone, $18\frac{1}{2}$ feet of freestone pavement, $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet of gray faiks, 3 feet of soft blue till, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet of limestone roof above the coal, 5 feet of cherry coal. The price of this coal at the pit is 1s. per load of four cwt. It is found at 21 fathoms, with a dip of 5 to 1 west by north. From 15 to 20 men are employed at the works.

The Cassingray coal consists of 6 regular seams, and 1 seam found occasionally 2 to 3 feet thick when it holds, and of excellent quality. The first regular seam is the marl coal, dipping to the south, 3 feet thick, and very near the surface. The second is a splint coal, about 14 inches thick, and found at from 7 to 8 fathoms. The third is also a splint coal, 3 feet 10 inches thick, of excellent quality, and found at 38 fathoms. The fourth is similar in quality, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick. The fifth is what is called the scarrot loft, and almost close to the black coal. The sixth, again, is a splint coal, 4 fathoms below the scarrot loft, 18 inches thick, and of the best quality. The dip of all these seams is as 1 in 6, but in different directions,—the coal on the north side of Cassingray dipping to the north-west, and that on the south dipping due south, while it is to be observed that the crops of both approach very near to each other, not far from the place where the pigeon house now stands. The metals cut through in the engine pit are 2 fathoms of clay, 15 fathoms of sandstone, 5 fathoms 2 feet of till or shale, 22 inches of limestone, 11 fathoms of sandstone, 4 feet of till, 15 inches of a black stone called pelt, and 7 inches of coarse parrot above the coal. The price of this coal at the pit is 1s. 2d. per load of four cwt. There are 38 col-

liers, 3 labourers, and 2 engine-men employed at the work, which has recently been let to an enterprising tenant.

Limestone of good quality is found in various places, and has been successfully wrought at Over Kellie, Baldutho, and Gibliston.

There are several excellent freestone quarries, one of them yielding good pavement. All these freestone quarries lie in the southern section of the parish,—the ridge formerly spoken of as running through the heart of the parish, consisting almost entirely of whinstone, and, with some few exceptions, such as at Cassingray, the whole northern section may be referred to the same formation.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Carnbee originally belonged to the Abbey of Dunfermline, and, when it was formed into a temporal lordship, the patronage went along with the teinds and other church property. The name of Melville, Laird of Carnbee, appears in public documents as early as 1466,—the property having been acquired by that family in the reign of Robert the Bruce, and remaining in it till it was sold by Sir James Melville in 1598. One of them was killed at the battle of Flodden field, and honourable mention is made of them both before and after the Reformation. Subsequently Sir James Galloway, created Lord Dunkeld by Charles II., held the lands and the patronage. Carnbee Place (as the old mansion-house was called, and which was only taken down in 1813), was long the residence of the family of Lord Dunkeld, whose names are often mentioned in the parish records. The third and last Lord Dunkeld joined Viscount Dundee at the battle of Killiecrankie, after which he was attainted, and died in the French service. The patronage has since passed into the family of Kellie, and is now, along with the lands, vested in that of Balcaskie.

Eminent Men.—The following is a list of distinguished persons connected with the parish: Sir Thomas Erskine, first Earl of Kellie, who bore a conspicuous part in suppressing the Gowrie conspiracy; Dr George Sibbald of Gibliston, uncle of Sir Robert Sibbald, the historian of Fife, and a very celebrated physician; Sir William Bruce, the celebrated architect; Thomas the sixth, or more generally known as the musical Earl of Kellie; the eccentric Hugo Arnot of Balcormo, the author of "State Trials," an "Essay upon Nothing," and other works; Archibald Constable, the celebrated bookseller; and if talent and success in mercantile affairs, joined to personal worth and a long series of benefits conferred upon the parish, should place any one in the list of distinguished persons who have been connected with it, may be men-

tioned Joseph Pitcairn, Esq., son of the Rev. Joseph Pitcairn, minister of Carnbee, who, for twenty-five years, sent an annual donation of L. 15, and, at his death in June last, bequeathed the sum of 1000 dollars to the kirk-session for the relief of the poor of his native parish.

Land-owners, &c.—The rent for which the parish was assessed in 1815 was L. 11,502. And the following is a list of the present landed proprietors, with the valued rent of their estates.

James Maitland Hog, Esq. of Kellie,	L. 2042	16	6
Sir Ralph A. Anstruther of Balcaskie, Carnbee, &c.	1783	15	1
George Simson, Esq. of Pitcorthie, &c.	1327	0	0
Sir Henry Bethune of Belliston and Cassingray,	960	7	2
Lord William R. K. Douglas of Balhouffie, Falside, &c.	806	0	0
Robert G. Smyth, Esq. of Gibleston,	702	8	10
Lieutenant-Colonel John Briggs of Over Carnbee,	427	1	3
Lieutenant-General Graham Stirling of Balmouth,	377	6	3
Hugo Arnot, Esq. of Balcormo,	369	0	0
Robert Briggs, Esq. of Gordonshall,	325	0	0
John Dalryell, Esq. of Lingo,	295	6	8
The Right Hon. Lord Mar of Kellie Castle,	262	6	8
Joseph Tosh, Esq. of Mortonshall and Kellieside,	173	3	4
Mrs Mouat of Craigloon,	164	0	0
New College of St Andrews for Langside,	86	0	0
Schoolmaster of Carnbee,	36	0	0
	L. 10,202	8	5

III.—POPULATION.

The population of Carnbee has decreased considerably. In 1752 it was 1290. At the date of the last Statistical Account it was 1041; in 1811, 1098; in 1821, 1048; in 1831, 1079; and in 1841, 1043. The decrease since 1752 is to be ascribed to the change in the system of farming.

The average number of communicants is 375; of baptisms, 28; of marriages, 5; and of deaths, 13.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

The parish is strictly agricultural. It is at present divided into 32 farms, the largest of which is 390 Scots acres, and the smallest about 40, the average being about 150. The system of management is that generally pursued on the stiff clay lands of this part of Fife, as already described in the reports of parishes similarly situated, and it is therefore unnecessary to give a detailed account of it. The same remark will apply to the produce, rates of wages, and the general expense of farm operations. The rent ranges from L. 1, 8s. to L. 3, 2s. per Scotch acre. Furrow-draining is going on vigorously, and cannot fail to effect a most decided improvement on a soil such as that of which the parish chiefly consists. Almost the whole of it has been limed.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The east end of the parish is within two miles of Anstruther, a sea-port, corn-market, and post-town. Pittenweem, also a sea-port and post-town, is within two and a-half miles of the church; and Colinsburgh, a corn-market and post-town, is within a mile of the west side of the parish. The church and manse are about eight miles distant from St Andrews. The produce is shipped chiefly at Anstruther, but also at Pittenweem and Elie. There are two corn mills and one lint mill in the parish.

The church is not central, being near the eastern extremity of the parish. It was built in 1793, and is large and commodious, containing accommodation for about 500. The chapel at Largo Ward affords accommodation to the inhabitants of the north-west part of the parish.

The manse and offices were built in 1820, and are in all respects substantial and commodious. The glebe is about 15 Scots acres. It is valued at L. 30 per annum. The stipend is 16 chalders, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. The teinds of the parish amount to 37 chalders.

There has not hitherto been any dissenting meeting-house in the parish, the few Dissenters who reside within the bounds attending the Relief chapel at Pittenweem, or the Burgher chapel at Largo Ward. A Free Church meeting-house is at present erecting at Arncroach, but it would be premature to pass any opinion as to the support which it will receive from the parishioners.

It has already been stated, that Mr David Wemyss represented the kirk of Carnbee in the first General Assembly. In the same Assembly he is also mentioned among such as were thought best qualified for the preaching of the word, and ministering of the sacraments at St Andrews, and he was afterwards settled there.

List of Ministers of Carnbee since the Reformation :

Mr David Spens, from 1567 to 1575	Mr John Falconer, from 1683 to 1689
Mr Thomas Wood, ... 1576 to 1578	Mr Henry Rymore, ... 1690 to 1694
Mr William Laing, ... 1579 to 1583	Mr R. Fairweather, ... 1698 to 1701
Mr Andrew Hunter, ... 1582 to 158-	Mr Hugh Kemp, ... 1704 to 1718
Mr David Mernes, ... 1589 to 1638	Mr Wm. Dalglish, ... 1719 to 1739
Mr John Mernes, ... 1639 to 1642	Mr Joseph Pitcairn, ... 1742 to 1780
Mr Henry Rymore, ... 1644 to 166-	Mr Alexander Brodie, ... 1781 to 1804
Mr Andrew Bruce, ... 1664 to 1677	Mr Joseph Taylor, ... 1805 to 1815
Mr James Garden, ... 1678 to 1681	Mr Anstruther Taylor, 1816*
Mr Alexander Lundie, ... 1681 to 1683	

* The above list I received from the Rev. H. Scott of West Anstruther, who with great labour has made up similar lists for most of the parishes in Scotland. His collection, if completed and printed, would form a curious document, and is worthy of the attention of some of our book societies.

Education.—There is one parochial, one private, and one female school. The salary of the parochial teacher is the maximum, with house and garden, and, in addition to this, he has a portion of land at Over Kellie, yielding a rent of L.20. The number of scholars may be stated at 70. The teacher of the female school has a salary of L.10, and a free house and school room, together with the school fees. The number of scholars, 35. The teacher of the private school depends altogether upon the school fees, which are inadequate for his support. There is also a Sabbath school.

Registers.—The earliest of the registers extant is of date 1650. They have been well kept.

Poor's Funds.—The only property vested in the kirk-session for the relief of the poor is L.320, L.100 of which was bequeathed to them by the Rev. Mr Thomson. A legacy of 1000 dollars has, within the last few months, been left to them by the late Joseph Pitcairn, Esq. of New York, for the same purpose. The interest of the above sum, the collections at the church doors, parish dues, and a voluntary contribution from the heritors, has hitherto been sufficient to relieve the wants of the ordinary and occasional poor, as will be seen by the following statement :

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure on an average of seven years.

By collections at the church doors,	L.17	17	2
... voluntary contribution by the heritors,	35	0	0
... interest of money,	12	16	0
... mortcloth dues,	1	19	8
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	L.67	12	10
In addition to this must be stated a donation yearly received from Mr Pitcairn, } 15 0 0			
And proceeds of a clothing club, of which the poor receive the full benefit, } 18 0 0			
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	L.95	12	10
To amount of allowances to 14 ordinary poor,	L.48	8	11
extra allowances to do. and to 13 occasional } 30 7 6			
poor, in money, meal, clothes, and coals,	13	6	2
To amount of session clerk and other salaries,	<hr/>		
	92	2	7
	<hr/>		
	L.3	10	3
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The highest allowance is 1s. 2d. per month, and the lowest 4d.—the allowance being paid on the first Monday of the month.

In conclusion, it may be observed that the progress of agricultural improvement has been very great since the date of the last Statistical Account. Judging from the details there given, the

produce of all kinds of corn must be at least four times greater, while the number of cattle reared and fattened is so much greater as scarcely to admit of a comparison. A great change has also taken place in the houses of all classes within the bounds of the parish, and perhaps a still greater in the farm-steadings. These are all of the best description, two of them having thrashing-mills driven by steam, six by water, and twenty-three by horses.

December 1844.

PARISH OF FALKLAND.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. A. WILSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE present parish of Falkland embraces what was formerly Kilgour and Falkland. The former name, like many in the neighbourhood, is of Celtic origin: *Ceil-gor*, "the Pleasant Church;" the Lomond,* or *Lois-monadh*, "the Hill Fortress." The name Falkland, however, or Faukland, as it often occurs in old charters, is considered of Gothic or Teutonic origin, from *Falk*, "a species of hawk," referring to the once favourite amusement of *hawking*. As a royal residence, indeed, Falkland seems to have been chiefly chosen with a view to the pleasures of the chase. Even after the union of the Crown of Scotland with that of England, both King James I. and Charles I. enjoyed that pastime in the wood or park of Falkland. This name, at first successively given to the manor, castle, and palace is now extended to the town and parish.

Boundaries and Extent.—The parish of Falkland is bounded on the north by Auchtermuchty; on the east, by Kettle and Markinch; on the south, by Leslie; and on the west, by Port-

* The Lomond, according to Jamieson, is derived from the Welsh dialect of the Celtic, from *Llo*, "what is raised or ejected," and *munt*, "a mound or mount." Falkland, as it stands in the charter of Malcolm IV., is *Falecklen*, which might also be referred to the Celtic, as if *Fal-aighe-leana*, "the Chieftain or King's Hind-meadow."