

PARISH OF KILRENNY.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. GEORGE DICKSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Extent, Boundaries, &c.—THE name of this parish, as found in old manuscripts, is variously spelt, as *Cilrinnie, Kytrinnye, Kilriny,* &c. In the former Statistical Account it is spelt Kilrenney, while the general spelling at present is Kilrenny. It has been stated in Swan's Views of Fife that "the name is derived from St Ninian, and that as Ninian is still popularized into Ringan, so Kilringan could easily be corrupted into Kilrenny." The more probable derivation, however, is that given in the former Statistical Account. "The name of this parish seems to be derived from the saint to whom the church was dedicated, viz. St Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, whose fame for piety was at that time great throughout Christendom. What serves to confirm this origin of the name is, that the fishermen, who have marked out the steeple of this church for a meath or mark to direct them at sea, call it St Irnie to this day; and the estate which lies close by the church is called Irniehill; but, by the transposition of the letter i, Rinnie-Hill. What adds to the probability of this interpretation, is a tradition still existing here, that the devotees at Anstruther, who could not see the church of Kilrenny till they travelled up the rising ground to what they called the Hill, then pulled off their bonnets, fell on their knees, crossed themselves, and prayed to St Irnie."

The figure of the parish may be described rather as rectangular than circular, and the extent of it is computed at about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, and nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth. It is bounded on the east by Crail; on the south by the Frith of Forth; on the west by East and West Anstruther and Carnbee; and on the north, by Carnbee and Crail. Being bounded by the sea on the south, the ground rises to the north, by a gentle acclivity, unbroken by any eminence deserving of notice; and presenting to the eye a fertile and highly cultivated slope. It is divided by hedges and dikes into a variety of enclosures, all of which are under the

plough, with the exception of about 10 or 12 acres of common, belonging to the towns of Kilrenny and Cellardyke, and lying in a state of nature, being partly covered with furze, and partly soured with water. There are also a few acres along the shore constantly kept in pasture, as they cannot be brought under the operation of the plough. There are likewise some acres under plantation, but not to any great extent.

All along the coast the shore is covered with large masses of sandstone blocks. The stratum of sandstone projects over another of shale or indurated clay; so that by the action of the water upon the clay, it has been gradually removed, and these masses of the superincumbent rock have thus been broken down.

There are some remarkable caves or coves, as they are sometimes called, situated in the eastern part of the parish and close by the shore. They are considerably above high water-mark, but the rocks, in their outward form, have every appearance of having been at one time under the action of water; while within the caves there are still further indications of such having been the case, by the rocks being drilled in many places by the Pholas. They stand at present several feet above high water-mark, and rise to the height of 30 or 40 feet. There are likewise to be seen in the interior of the caves, artificial cuttings and chiselled crosses, which indicate that at some period they have been used as the abode of men.

Some human bones were lately found, when removing a portion of earth from the interior of the caves; and a friend on hearing of this circumstance, has suggested the idea that they may have been the resort of the leper, or the hermit, or the persecuted in evil times.

It is highly probable that they would be resorted to by smugglers, at the period when smuggling was carried on to a very great extent in the East Neuk of Fife. They were at a later period used as the outhouses of a small farm; and they are still used as a place of shelter for cattle. There is no tradition regarding them, except that there is a communication below ground between them and the house of Barnsmuir, situated nearly half a mile from the shore, where it is said that a piper was heard playing beneath the hearth stone of the kitchen; but these days of delusion have passed away.

The temperature of the atmosphere along the coast is rather mild than otherwise, so that the snow in winter seldom remains

long undissolved, and from the extent to which draining has of late been carried, the climate may be represented as dry and healthy.

The diseases are such as are common to the district, and in the town of Cellardyke, where there is a great population closely crowded together, fever is often prevalent.

Geology.—The strata laid open along the shore exhibit the common coal formation of sandstone, limestone, clay ironstone, shale, and coal, and contain many interesting fossil remains. The direction and dip of the strata vary much. The usual dip is from 20° to 25° . About the west end of the parish, the direction in which the strata are found is towards the south, while, as you proceed eastward, it inclines towards the south-east. Along the shore are found clay ironstone balls with coprolites, and many specimens of the *Variolaria Ficoides* of Sternberg; and toward the east end of the parish, considerably within high water mark, are found in the sandstone strata, a number of fossil trees, projecting upwards at an angle of 70° to the height of several feet, and placed at distances from each other, as if growing in a forest.

In the limestone quarry at Cornceres, about half a mile inland, the dip of the stratum was found in the working to be almost perpendicular, while at other times it inclined to the north-east. This limestone resembles that of Burdiehouse, in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, with similar fossil remains, such as fresh-water fish, plants, &c. In reference to this quarry, the Rev. Dr Anderson of Newburgh, who has long paid great attention to the subject of geology, thus writes in his *Geological Account of Fife*, published along with Swan's *Views of Fife*: "While these pages have been passing through the press, I have been successful in finding the fresh water, or bituminous limestone, in the south-eastern extremity of the county. I first met with it in the parish of Kilrenny on the shore, and likewise to the eastward about a mile, in the parish of Crail. It is wrought inland in both parishes, at Cornceres and at Sypsies. Here it lies in small trough-shaped basins, and is much disturbed by underlying dikes, which traverse in every direction the whole of this district. Along the shore the deposit is about six feet thick, and dips to the south-east at an angle of 20° . It rests upon a thin bed of coal of about one foot and a half in thickness."

"Scales, coprolites, and vegetable impressions are in the greatest profusion, and no doubt can be entertained, from its mineralogical characters, as well as its organic contents, of its being

a portion of the interesting deposit which ranges westward from Pettycur."

The soil in the parish varies considerably. Along the coast, although containing a strong mixture of clay, it is rich and productive, while in the higher parts, as it rests on strong clayey subsoil, it is more retentive of moisture, and, in wet seasons, less productive.

It is astonishing, however, to observe the vast change and consequent improvement which have taken place within the last few years, from the skill and enterprise which the tenants have displayed in draining their farms.

Zoology.—There are not many of the rarer animals to be found in this locality. In winter a great many birds flock to the shore which are not to be found in summer. Among the feathered tribe frequenting this locality may be mentioned pheasants, the golden plover, starling, and the golden-crested wren, though but rarely seen; while there is no lack of common birds.

In the woods of Innergelly, some of the deer species, (*Cervus capreolus*), have been observed, but they are not numerous. The most interesting class of animals, both as to number and importance, in an economical point of view, is the fish found in the Frith of Forth. The following are found in abundance: Cod, ling, haddock, skate, flounders, and halibut: turbot very rarely. Besides these, which are of great importance, as affording a cheap and wholesome diet, there is the dog-fish, which is very abundant at times, and very destructive to the haddocks when caught upon the line, but which is useful as affording a certain portion of oil, and still more so to the farmer, as a rich manure when formed into a compost with earth. There is also the cat-fish, which certainly has not a very seemly appearance, but is highly relished by some when dressed as fish and sauce. The shell-fish which are caught along the shore are the lobster, the parten, or common crab, the wilk, and the limpet. Of late great quantities of wilks have been gathered from the rocks and sent to the London market. There are no oysters or mussels to be found along the shore.

Botany.—As the parish does not rise to any great altitude above the level of the sea, the plants along the sea-side, and the *Algae*, or plants growing among the rocks from low to high water level, are those which chiefly deserve notice. Of these the following

species may be mentioned, some of which are useful in medicine, and others in agriculture and domestic economy.

Sedum anglicum	Nasturtium officinale	Primula veris
— acre	Artemisia absinthium	Malva sylvestris
Arenaria marina	Plantago maritima	Poa maritima
— peploides	— coronopus	— fluitans
Glaux maritima	Astragalus hypoglottis	Briza media
Statice armeria	Medicago lupulina	Triticum junceum
Aster tripolium	Papaver Rhœas	Alopecurus geniculatus
Ligusticum scoticum	Œnanthe crocata	Phleum pratense
Chenopodium maritimum	Conium maculatum	Cynosurus cristatus
— Bonus Hen-	Orchis mascula	Holcus lanatus
ricus	— maculata	Juncus compressus
Triglochin maritimum	Iris pseudacorus	
Cochlearia officinalis	Geranium pratense	

Algæ.*

Fucus esculentus	Fucus canaliculatus	Fucus coccineus
— saccharinus	— siliquosus	— dentatus
— digitatus	— crispus	— pinnatifidus
— loreus	— mammilosus	— opuntia
— filum	— palmatus	Ulva lactuca
— vesiculosus	— sanguineus	— compressa
— nodosus	— alatus	
— serratus	— plumosus	

There is but a small proportion of the land in the parish comparatively speaking, occupied with plantation, and that small portion is gradually diminishing. This may be partly accounted for by the proximity of the parish to the sea, and still more satisfactorily by the ground being so very valuable for the raising of grain crops. The only estates on which there is some extent of plantation, are Innergelly and Thirdpart, the latter of which consists chiefly of belts.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

From the local Reports of Commissioners of Municipal Corporations in Scotland in 1833, the following report is taken:—"Kilrenny, which consists of Upper and Nether Kilrennies, is not, strictly speaking, a royal burgh; it has no crown charter. In 1672 the magistrates of Kilrenny presented a supplication to Parliament, setting forth that it never was a royal burgh, and praying that it might no more be esteemed such, but continue a burgh of regality." This supplication was remitted to the Privy Council, and it appears from the minutes of Parliament that it was "or-

* The synonyms of the *Algæ*, according to later botanists, corresponding to the Linnæan names given, may also here be adjoined. *Alaria esculenta*, *Laminaria saccharina*, *L. digitata*, *Himantalia lorea*, *Chorda filum*, *Fucus vesiculosus*, *F. nodosus*, *F. serratus*, *F. canaliculatus*, *Halidrys siliquosa*, *Chondrus crispus*, *Ch. mammilosus*, *Rhodomenia palmata*, *Delesseria sanguinea*, *D. alata*, *Ptilota plumosa*, *Plocamium coccineum*, *Laurencia pinnatifida*, *Catnella opuntia*, *Ulva lactuca*, *Enteromorpha compressa*.

dored that the burgh of Kilrenny be expunged out of the rolls, the same being now no royal burgh by Act of Parliament."

"Kilrenny holds feu of a subject, Mr Bethune, one of whose predecessors represented the town in the meeting of Estates in 1689. It continued afterwards to send a representative to Parliament without being objected to, and was inadvertently classed by the Articles of the Union in a set of five burghs sending a representative to Parliament."

The same report states "that Nether Kilrenny has a harbour for fishing boats—for the improvement of which L. 1200 were advanced by the Board of Trustees for the improvement of fisheries, and L. 500 were raised by the town—which have been expended in building new quays; but they have not been judiciously placed, and the harbour is said to have been rather injured than improved by their erection."

"Kilrenny is in schedule F. of the Burgh Reform Act. By the old sett of the burgh the old council elected the new council. A change was, in 1819, made in the sett of the burgh. It was the practice formerly to elect the bailies from three leets, called first, second, and third magistrate's leets—one being chosen out of each leet; but in that year the classification was abolished, and the three bailies were chosen out of a general leet of nine persons, which change occasioned the disfranchisement of the burgh in 1828; and the town has ever since been under the management of managers appointed by the Court of Session, as is usual in such cases, till the constitution of the burgh is restored, or a new one granted.

The harbour of Cellardyke is in all the charters designated Skin-fast haven.

Eminent Men.—James Melville, nephew of the famous Andrew Melville, was appointed minister of the parish in 1586. Sir James Lumsdaine of Innergelly was a major-general under Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden. He afterwards served in the Scottish army, and was taken prisoner by Cromwell at the battle of Dunbar.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners are Sir Windham Carmichael Anstruther, of Anstruther and Carmichael, Bart.; Robert Anstruther, Esq. of Thirdpart; the Rev. Edwin Sandys Lumsdaine of Innergelly; Andrew Johnston, Esq. of Rennyhill; Lord William R. K. Douglas of Denino; Mrs Drinkwater Bethune of Balfour, and Sir Thomas Erskine of Cambo, Bart. To

the great loss of the parish none of the land-owners are resident. The houses of Innergelly and Rennyhill are the only residences in the parish, but have not been occupied by their proprietors for two or three years. They are modern buildings, and afford good accommodation.

Parochial Registers.—The oldest parochial register is dated 1586, and commences about the time when James Melville entered on the work of the ministry at Kilrenny. The registers appear to have been pretty correctly kept; but some of them are so tarnished and chafed as to render dates often uncertain and the reading imperfect. About 1580, and several years afterwards, one minister, William Clarke, and after him James Melville, had the superintendence of West Anstruther, Pittenweem, Abercrombie, and Kilrenny, officiating at each in rotation, the parishes having their respective kirk-sessions; and when, on any particular occasion, they met in a body, it was called the Assembly; but their transactions were marked in the same book. Latterly, and for a considerable period, they have been kept with great accuracy.

Antiquities.—On a slightly elevated portion of ground to the west of the village of Kilrenny, there is an upright stone with some rude engraving somewhat resembling the mariner's compass, called Skeith, or Skeigh, or Scathe stone; but there is no satisfactory tradition concerning it. It may possibly have been erected to commemorate some conflict which took place during the invasion of the East Neuk by the Danes. There is another upright stone on the farm of East Pitcorthie, about five or six feet above ground, but when or on what occasion erected is not known. It bears no date and no characters, and there is no tradition concerning it.

There is another eminence to the eastward of the village, which is called Capelochy Castle, near to the shore. And it has been conjectured from the appearance of the low land on the north side, bearing marks of having been under water, that the eminence, at one time, had been surrounded by water, and hence its name, Capelochy Castle.

There is a farm adjoining, which bears the name of Caiplie, which is probably a corruption of Capelochy. The ground which the castle occupied is now under the plough, and very lately an immense quantity of stones were dug up, and among them was

found, not exactly a stone coffin, but stones set upon edge, within which some human bones were discovered.

The old house of Thirdpart, now demolished, was long the family residence of the Scots of Scotstarvet; and Newbarns or Westbarns, in the adjoining parish of Crail, was the seat of the Cunninghams; in this locality is laid the scene of Drummond of Hawthornden's humorous poem, entitled Polemo-Middinia.

III.—POPULATION.

Amount of population in 1790,	1086
1801,	1043
1811,	1233
1821,	1494
1831,	1705
1841,	2039

In 1836 there were 58 births, 15 marriages, 23 deaths in the parish.

1837	57	9	54
1838	55	11	37
1839	51	26	28
1840	53	26	42
1841	66	20	39
1842	53	27	50
Total in seven years	393	134	273
Yearly average for seven years	56	19	39

In 1790 the population of the parish, as taken by the Rev. Mr Beat, was 261 families, 1086 inhabitants.

In 1841, according to the census taken by Mr Bonthron, schoolmaster,

	Inhabited Houses.	Families.	Males.	Females.	Total number of persons.
There were in Kilrenny,	47	58	101	192	293
Cellardyke,	197	318	690	796	1486
Landward,	67	69	161	159	320
In the whole parish,	311	445	952	1087	2039

There were 4 houses building in the parish
 14 uninhabited houses
 156 persons employed in agriculture
 97 persons employed in handicraft
 282 fishermen and sailors
 64 female servants
 38 independent individuals

		In Kilrenny.	Cellardyke.	Landward.	Total.
There were under 7 years of age		51	322	66	439
between 7 and 15		40	291	62	393
15 and 30		46	363	90	499
30 and 50		48	322	75	445
50 and 70		38	145	25	208
above 70		10	43	2	55
	Total	233	1486	320	2039

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IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The number of acres in the parish may be estimated at about 2400, the greater proportion of which is under the plough, and in a high state of cultivation. There may be from twenty to thirty acres which do not seem at any time to have been cultivated, but remain partly in pasture and partly in a state of nature. For a very considerable number of years, a regular system of rotation in farming has been followed, and varies upon different farms. A five, or six, or seven years' shift is the rotation generally adopted; and the principal crops are, wheat, beans, barley, oats, hay or pasture, potatoes, and turnip. Along the coast the land is richer and more productive; but, taking the whole parish, the average produce of an acre may be estimated at 8 bolls for wheat and beans, and for oats and barley, from 6 to 7 bolls. There is comparatively little of the land in pasture, as the farmers think it more advantageous to take parks in the higher parts of the neighbouring parishes for rearing their young stock. A vast improvement has of late taken place, in consequence of the great extent to which draining has been carried. This is effected sometimes with stones and sometimes with tiles; but, in both cases, the beneficial effects are speedily made manifest. The average rent per acre may be about L.2, 10s.

Live-stock.—There are few sheep kept in the parish, and the prevailing breed of cattle is what is called the Fife breed.

Leases.—Leases are generally granted for nineteen years, and the farmers being possessed both of capital and intelligence, are ever ready to adopt the most improved implements of husbandry, and any new suggestion with regard to the mode of culture. The great proportion of the steadings are ample and commodious, with excellent dwelling-houses for the tenants.

Wages.—The wages of masons, carpenters, &c. range about 2s. 6d. per day, while the day-labourer earns from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d.; and the women, who are generally employed during the summer in hoeing, &c., receive 8d. per day, and during harvest, they are allowed from L.1, 10s. to L.1, 15s., with dinner, which consists of beer and bread, with a lippy of meal for their supper.

Limestone, with thin seams of coal, has for a long period been wrought upon the estates of Innergelly and Thirdpart; and ironstone has also been found along the shore within high water mark. The best freestone quarry for building purposes is to be

found on the farm of Blacklaws, belonging to Mrs Drinkwater Bethune.

Fisheries.—The fishery in Cellardyke is carried on to a very great extent. The fishermen are active, hardy, and enterprising, and prosecute their lawful employment oftentimes under circumstances of great danger. There are about 100 large boats, varying in tonnage from 13 to 18 tons, employed during the summer season in the herring fishery, each of these being manned with three or four regular fishermen and one or two halfdealmen, as they are called, who have no nets, but merely assist in rowing, and hauling the nets; or if they have not the full complement of men, two or three strong boys are sometimes taken. It was the usual practice for the whole of the fishermen to go to Peterhead and Wick to prosecute the fishing, without a single boat being left to try if herring could be got in the Frith of Forth; but in 1837 or 1838 some of the fishermen remained at home, and were very successful; and since that period a great number of boats have been employed at home with various success, and during some seasons, have been more successful than those which went to the north. At times the boats were brought into the harbour with from forty to eighty crans; but when the herrings are so abundant, the fishery continues only for a few days. When the fishermen get 200 crans, they account such a fair fishing, but many do not attain to that number. During a successful fishing season lately, one or two boats got about 400 crans or barrels, and it is believed that one caught the extraordinary number of 500 crans. Their agreement with the curers is generally from 9s. to 11s. per cran, with a certain allowance of whisky. It is not, however, all gain that is made by the fishing, as it is attended with a very considerable expense. The boats, when thoroughly fitted for going to sea at first, cost about L.100, and require a considerable sum to keep them in repair; while the nets, when ready for use, cost about L.5 each, and the number taken by each boat varies from fourteen to twenty. The herring fishing is prosecuted for a short time in winter during the months of January and February, and in autumn during the months of August and September. The other months are occupied by the fishermen in prosecuting the white fishing, when 28 or 30 boats go regularly to sea every morning if the weather permits, and proceed oftentimes to the distance of 40 or 50 miles in search of fish. The boats in these cases are manned with eight men each, and while each man furnishes a certain portion of line, with the necessary hooks

attached, the produce is equally divided among the fishermen, the owner of the boat being entitled to a double share. In this mode of fishing a considerable expense is also incurred, both in the purchase of mussels for bait, which are generally brought from the Eden, beyond St Andrews, and also by the frequent loss of their fishing tackle. In summer, the fish are generally taken to Fisherrow and Newhaven, or to Dundee and Perth; and in winter they are generally brought into the harbour and sold to the fish-curers, or to the cadgers, who cart them to a great distance, and dispose of them in the different towns through which they pass. The fish-curers smoke the haddocks and pickle the cod which they purchase, and send them to the Glasgow, Liverpool, and London markets. Besides the fishermen who are engaged in the fishing, the means of subsistence are afforded to a number of other individuals, such as coopers, carters, and women who are employed in cleaning and curing the fish. It would be difficult to ascertain the amount of money which is brought in from the deep in the course of the year; but estimating each fishing boat at 120 crans on an average in ordinary years, the sum realized, at 10s. per cran, would amount to L.6000, besides the profits arising from the take of cod and haddocks, &c. during the summer season, which is very considerable; but when the expense of keeping up their lines and the payment of their bait are taken into consideration, these apparent gains are much diminished. A cart load of mussels brought from the Eden costs from 20s. to 22s., and the lines which are employed in fishing by each fisherman extend to 1800 feet in winter, and double that length in summer, so that when the whole or even a portion of the line is lost, a considerable sum is necessary to repair the deficiency.

Many of the fishermen are in respectable circumstances, and careful in the management of their substance, but it is matter of deep regret that the same cannot be said of all of them.

Mrs D. Bethune, as the superior, is entitled to every fourteenth fish of the different kinds, with the exception of herring, of which she has a right to every eighteenth; but instead of exacting the rent in fish, an agreement has been entered into with the fishermen, by which they consent, in lieu of the fish, to pay L.40 annually.

As the harbour is intended merely for fishing boats, no ships or foreign vessels are allowed to enter it.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Cellardyke is the only town in the parish, and Kilrenny the

only village, but there is no market held in either of them. East Anstruther adjoining Cellardyke, and about a mile west from Kilrenny, is the place where the nearest market is held, and where the post-office is situated. The road along the coast from Anstruther to Crail passes through the parish, extending upwards of three miles; and the road from Anstruther to St Andrews intersects the parish in a different direction, to the extent of two and a-half miles. Besides these turnpike roads there may be two or three miles of statute labour roads.

Ecclesiastical State and Education.—The old church was of much larger dimensions than the present, being 100 feet by 50 over the walls, and having the roof supported by two rows of Gothic arches and round pillars. The time of its erection is not known. It has been stated by some of the older inhabitants of the parish, that on one of its arches was cut a Lochaber axe, and on a stone on the west gable outside, was the figure of a sheep, as forming part of a coat of arms. Having, upon inspection in 1806, been found in a dangerous state, it was taken down, and a plain commodious building erected on the same site, capable of accommodating about 800 sitters, but, in consequence of the rapid increase of the population, it should have been enlarged. Adjoining the church is an excellent school-room, to which a considerable addition has lately been made, and a comfortable dwelling-house at the same time built for the accommodation of the schoolmaster. Both kirk and school are so placed, as to be convenient for the country part of the population; but, as the great bulk of the inhabitants is in Cellardyke, it would have been desirable to have had them put down nearer to that locality.

It appears that William Comyn, Earl of Buchan, with consent of his countess, confirmed the grant of the church of Kilrenny in Fife to the monks of Dryburgh, which had been made by the Countess Ada, the mother of Malcolm the Fourth and William the Lion. The parish church is situated in the village of Kilrenny, its distance from the extremities of the parish being about two miles. It was built, as has already been mentioned, in 1806, and is at present in a good state of repair. The patronage is in the possession of Sir Windham C. Anstruther, Bart. The manse was built in 1819, and is also in a good state of repair. The extent of the glebe is about eleven acres, and is valued about L.27. The stipend is 136 bolls of meal and the same of barley, with L.10 of communion element money.

The great bulk of the population attend the Established Church with the exception of some Dissenters, not amounting to a hundred. The average number of communicants for several years past has been upwards of 620.

Education.—There is one parochial school. There are also a female and an infant school, mostly supported by the school fees and partly by subscription. There are other two schools upon the teachers' own adventure. The female teacher assembles a class every Sunday morning for religious instruction, and a Sabbath school is taught in the evening, which is numerously attended by both boys and girls. The branches of instruction generally taught in the parish school, are, English, English grammar, writing, arithmetic, geography, French, Latin, mathematics, and navigation. The salary of the schoolmaster is the maximum, and the school fees are 2s. 6d. for English, 3s. 6d. for arithmetic, and 5s. for Latin, &c. per quarter.

The house occupied by the teacher has more than the legal accommodation, but the garden ground being deficient, an allowance is granted by the heritors. The people in general being alive to the benefits of education, it is believed that there are comparatively few who cannot read or write.

The only circulating library in the parish is one connected with the Sabbath school, which consists of religious publications.

Several Societies at one time existed in the parish, but they are mostly broken up, with the exception of one which the fishermen maintain for the support of the aged, and widows and children; and another which a few benevolent individuals some years ago organised, for administering a little relief to aged females.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The funds for the support of the poor are procured from church collections, seat rents, interest of money, &c. and voluntary assessment on the heritors. The average number of poor on the roll for the years 1840, 1841, and 1842, is 15; average expense of their maintenance per year, L.97, 0s. 3d.; average sum expended yearly on the occasional poor, L.19, 7s. 9d.; total yearly expense of maintaining the poor, L.116, 8s., including two lunatics.

The average amount of church collections for 1840, 1841, and 1842, is L.29, 18s. 6d.; Do. seat rents for each of these years, L.31, 11s. 8d.; Do. interest of money, &c. yearly, L.5, 5s.; Do. voluntary assessment yearly, L.49, 12s. 10d.; amount of contributions for relief of the poor yearly, L.116, 8s.

Inns, &c.—The number of houses licensed for retailing spirits are, in Cellardyke, fourteen, and in Kilrenny, one. There are, besides, several other houses licensed only to retail porter, ale, and beer.

Fuel.—Coal is the only fuel which is used in the parish. It is procured from coal-works in the parishes of Carnbee and Elie, a distance of from five to seven miles. The coal which is found in the parish is of inferior quality, and used only for burning limestone. A considerable portion is also brought by sea from the coal-works along the Frith, and also from Newcastle, but at a greater expense.

May 1843.

PARISH OF PITTENWEEM.*

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. JOHN COOPER, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries.—THE name of the parish was most probably derived from a large cave anciently called *weem*, which is situated near where the town is now built, as also from coal-pits having been early wrought in the same locality.

Whether Pittenweem originally was a parish or not is uncertain. The parish extends from east to west about a mile and a half, and is half a mile in breadth. It is bounded by the parish of Anstruther Wester on the east, by the same and Carnbee on the north, and by St Monance on the west. The Frith of Forth bounds it on the south. The grounds in the parish are flat. The soil is in general a black loam, and very fertile; producing heavy crops of wheat and barley.

Geology.—This parish forms part of the coal-field of Fife. The mountain limestone, constituting the lowest bed of the formation, is here seen to crop out on the surface to the west of the town, and above this are workable seams of coal. The intrusion of trap rocks has formed an anticlinal axis, so that the seams of

* Furnished by W. R.