

nity, rather than that of a quiet country parish. For the male part of the population, there is, therefore, no want of employment, but the female portion, it must be admitted, is not so fortunate. To ameliorate their condition is an object well worthy the consideration of the philanthropist. At the time of writing the former Account, females could not only largely contribute to the support of their respective establishments, but it is an ascertained fact, that in many instances, *the whole rent, amounting to a considerable sum*, was the earnings of the wife and her handmaidens. How altered, in this respect, the state of things! Spinning, except for family purposes, may be reckoned among the things that were. The very fact that, of the 39 paupers supported by the kirk-session, 32 are old women, is sufficient to shew that the *weaker sex*, do what they will, if depending upon their *own* efforts for subsistence, *must* anticipate *old age* with feelings of the most painful solicitude!

"This is a sight for pity to peruse,  
Till she resemble faintly what she views,  
Till sympathy contract a kindred pain,  
Pierc'd with the woes 'these females feel in vain.'"

COWPER.

February 1839.

## PARISH OF CAPUTH.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.

THE REV. ALEXANDER WILSON, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—It appears from our session records that formerly the name of this parish was variously spelt, Keapoch, or Kapoch,—more commonly Capoch; but for the last half century invariably Caputh. The origin or meaning of the term is entirely lost in obscurity. *Keapoch* in Gaelic signifies "a decayed wood," as I am told; but how it applies to this parish I cannot discover.

*Situation.*—It is situated in that district of Perthshire which is called the Stormont, and comprehends the greater part of the plain of the Stormont, which is just a continuation of the extensive vale of Strathmore, towards the foot of the Grampians.

*Boundaries.*—Its figure is very irregular, save on the south, which is nearly a straight line for 10 miles, marked by the course of the Tay, from Dunkeld to the mouth of the Isla; which river forms the boundary for a considerable space on the east, viz. from where it receives the Lunan. This latter stream again separates it on the north-east from Blairgowrie. On the north it is bounded by Lethendy and Clunie; on the west, by Dunkeld and Dowally. It contains about 16,000 square acres, or 25 square miles. It is about 13 miles in length from west to east, and varying from 2 to 7 miles in breadth.

In the Lives of the Bishops of Dunkeld, (a MS. written by Alexander Mylne,\* Canon of Dunkeld), it is related that Bishop Brown, in the year 1500, divided the parish of Little Dunkeld into the old parish of Little Dunkeld and the parish of Caputh; and "at Caputh he built on his own charges, a quire, with painted ceiling and glazed windows. He gave for the support of the vicar, a vicarage, which had been formerly united to his own see, four acres of glebe-land, and the rising ground, called the Mute-hill, to build a church upon."

From the same author, it appears that the parish of Dowally was originally a part of Caputh. "Upon information (says Mylne), that the Irish was spoken in the Highland parts of the parish of Caputh, the Bishop (Brown) built and endowed a church in honour of the blessed Mother, St Anne, among the woods of the church lands of Dowally."†

\* Alexander Mylne lived in the times of George Brown, Bishop of Dunkeld, from 1494 to 1514, and of his successor, the celebrated Gavin Douglas, to whom his work is dedicated. The original MS. in Latin, was presented by the late Duke of Atholl to the Antiquarian Society of Perth, and printed in a volume of their Transactions. A MS. translation of it is in possession of a gentleman in Dunkeld, who kindly favoured me with a perusal of it.

† There has been, for a considerable time past, a good deal of discussion as to the precise boundary between Caputh and Dunkeld. The small burn of Ketlochy, which rises in Craigie-Barns, and which runs through the eastern part of Dunkeld into the Tay, a little above the bridge, was the ancient boundary. But this boundary is no longer visible, the water being conveyed by a conduit beneath the houses on the west side of Atholl Street, so that all of the town on the east side is in Caputh parish. The cause of this singularity will appear from the following extract taken from the Statistical Account of Dunkeld and Dowally, written by Principal Baird in 1799: "The boundaries of Dunkeld, viewed as a parish, are not extensive, but they are not hitherto distinctly ascertained. As it was the seat of the Bishop, and the service of the cathedral was performed either by his chaplain, or by some of the clergy who had fixed benefices in other quarters of the diocese, it was not necessary at that time to constitute it formally a parish, or to mark its limits. In fact, it does not appear that this was ever done. It is not entered as a parish in the case-books of the county, and none of the old title-deeds of the proprietors describe the property as lying within the parish, but within the city of Dunkeld. What is now, therefore, the parish, includes only what was formerly within the boundaries of the city. These, in the course of the present (eighteenth) century, have been considerably altered; for during the convulsions of 1699 the greatest part of the houses were burnt by an irritated and licentious

Besides what is contained within the extensive boundaries already described, there are several detached portions scattered throughout the counties of Perth and Forfar, viz. Balholmie, lying within the parish of Cargill; West and Middle Gormack, in Kinloch; East and West Logie, Cairns, Chapelton, Meadows and Crofty, in Clunie; and Craigtown of Dalruizian, in Kirkmichael, all in Perthshire. Also, South Bandirran, in Collace; Balbeuchly, (through which the Newtyle Railway passes), in Auchterhouse; Broughtay Castle and fishings, and a small piece of ground at Mylnefield, near Dundee; and Fofarty in Kinnettles; all in Forfarshire. In Fofarty there is a field of about four acres, called, from time immemorial, "the minister of Caputh's glebe," and which was believed to belong to him, though unoccupied by any person. On being claimed, however, a number of years ago, by the late incumbent, the Rev. W. Innerarity, he was opposed by the Trustees of the Earl of Strathmore, and the Court of Session decreed in their favour.

*Surface and Climate.*—Its surface is very diversified. To the south-east, stretching towards Strathmore, it is almost a perfect level, and presents a rich and beautifully cultivated champaign. To the north and west it partakes of much of the grandeur of Highland scenery, without its wildness, being an agreeable succession of hill and dale, and pleasant little valleys opening their bosoms to the sun, enlivened by lakes or rippling streams. The temperature accordingly varies with the situation, being more keen in the higher parts, but the climate is everywhere genial and salubrious. There are no prevalent distempers, and longevity is very common. At present there are several persons on the verge of ninety years, and two or three advanced beyond that period.

*Hydrography.*—There is no stream of any consequence flowing directly through this parish. But the Tay, which forms its southern boundary for ten miles, from the bridge of Dunkeld to its junction with the Isla, is a splendid river, from 150 to 200 yards in width, and

soldiery, and such of them as had stood to the west and north-west of the cathedral were not rebuilt. The ground which they, and the gardens which had lain intermixed with them, occupied, is supposed to have extended to about five acres, and this space now forms a part of the Duke of Atholl's lawn and policy. But as the boundaries of the town receded on one quarter, they stretched out in another. Several new houses were built on the slope of the eminence which rises to the eastward of the town. These are uniformly described in the title-deeds as lying in the parish of Caputh. That parish, indeed, completely surrounds Dunkeld, (except where it is skirted on the north by the Tay); and in former times had received, it thus appears, title to the site of the buildings. Stipend is paid to the minister of Caputh from a plot of ground lying but a few yards from the cathedral.—Vol. ix. pp. 412, 413.

nothing can be more lovely or picturesque than the scenery upon either side. On the north there is a chain of lochs, formed and connected by the burn of Lunan, which rises in the Grampians; and first passing through Loch Ordie, (a most romantic and much visited sheet of water at the base of Duchray, a lofty conical mountain in the parish of Dowally), soon after enters the parish of Caputh, and rapidly descending a deep wooded glen of two or three miles in length, in which are situated Birken Burn, Hatton, and Calley, (at the latter of which are an ornamental loch and garden belonging to the Duke of Atholl), it reaches the loch of Craighlush, immediately adjoining which is the beautiful loch of Lows, about two miles north-east of Dunkeld; a little to the eastward is Butterstone Loch, all of which are in this parish. Leaving the last mentioned, the Lunan runs eastward to the loch of Clunie, in that parish, famed for its ancient castle, situated upon an island, once occupied by the Admirable Crichton, now possessed by the Earl of Airly. Emerging thence it pursues its course to the loch of Drumellie, both stream and loch forming for a considerable distance the northern limit of this parish. From Drumellie it continues its former direction, separating the parishes of Lethendy and Blairgowrie, till it reaches Littleour, where it forms the boundary between Caputh and Blairgowrie, till it falls into the Isla, about three miles west from Coupar Angus, and seven miles east from Caputh church.

*Soil.*—The surface being so extensive and diversified, the soil must also greatly vary according to the locality. In the higher parts it is cold and wet, though yielding excellent crops. In the lower grounds it is light and dry, and along the bank of the Tay and Isla it is a rich loam. Much of the soil is alluvial; these rivers often overflowing their banks, though now more carefully confined within their proper channels by strong embankments.

*Mineralogy.*—There is a great abundance of clay-slate and limestone. At Newtyle, a little to the east of Dunkeld, the clay-slate is extensively quarried, the slates are in great request—200,000 being often disposed of in a month.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There is no historical record of this parish, but in Milne's History of the Bishops of Dunkeld, (already noticed), Caputh is frequently mentioned as being one of the *mensal* parishes belonging to the cathedral.

*Proprietors.*—There are 30 heritors and portioners. **Thir-**

**PERTH.**

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teen of these stand in the cess-book at upwards of L. 100 Scots valued rent. The principal heritors are, Sir John Muir Mackenzie, Bart. of Delvine; Lady Keith, or Countess Flahault of Meikleour; the Duke of Atholl; Keay of Snaigow; Menzies of Culdares; Sir William Drummond Stewart, Bart. of Murthly; Kinloch of Gourdie; Haggart of Glendelvine; and Murray of Kincairney. The whole ancient valued rent of the parish is L. 9369 Scots, being the highest in the county save Errol. The valued rent of Delvine is L. 3144 Scots, being one-third of the whole.

*Parochial Registers.*—The register of baptisms and marriages, and records of session, commence with the year 1671, and are continued without intermission till the present date, though some of the books are greatly worn and decayed. The insertion of births appears to have been omitted till a recent period. A register of deaths has been twice attempted, but left off after a few years' trial, owing, no doubt, to the want of fees to the clerk, and there being no proper authority to enforce the registration, as in the case of baptisms and marriages.

The ministers of this parish in succession were, Robert Gordon, admitted 12th March 1682; James Crockat, 16th December 1688; James Hogg, 21st September 1721; James Bisset, 30th August 1758; William Innerarity, 11th December 1783; Alexander Wilson, the present incumbent, was ordained assistant and successor, 4th August 1835, and succeeded Mr Innerarity, 17th March 1837.

*Antiquities.*—With regard to the antiquities of this parish, there are but few objects of that nature deserving notice, and of these little can be said with certainty. Of cairns, Druidical stones, Pictish forts, and Roman encampments, not a few traces are to be found, but their history is almost entirely lost, and the vulgar conjectures regarding them are too vague for being recorded. The only truly classical ground is that of Inchtuthil, which is allowed, by the best antiquarians who have examined it, to have been the station *in medio* mentioned by Tacitus in his *Life of Agricola*, and to which the Roman general led his troops after the celebrated battle with Galgacus. Inchtuthil, signifying "the island in the flooded stream," lies about two and a-half miles east of the church, on the north bank of the Tay. It is a singular piece of flat oblong table-land, with a steep declivity on all sides. On the north extremity of this table-land, stands Delvine House;

on the south extremity, overlooking the TAY, are the distinct remains of what is supposed originally to have been a Pictish fort, and latterly a Roman encampment. It is evident that it must have been a place of great strength, giving the command of the whole district to the person who held it. It is particularly described by Mr Pennant in his Tour.

The following information respecting Inchtuthil is from the Statistical Account by Mr Innerarity in 1792: "It is a flat of 160 Scotch acres, regularly steep on every side, and in every part of equal height, that is, about 60 feet above the great plain of the Stormont, on which it stands. Here the Picts had a town, which must have been a place of great strength, and of which the vestiges may be discerned at the south-west corner of this singular elevation. Boetius calls it *Tuline* or *Tulina*, and says that it was populous and well fortified, but deserted and burned by the Picts, on the approach of the Romans under Agricola. He adds, (as translated by Holinsbed,) "the Scottishmen in our time call the place Inchtuthil." The Romans also availed themselves of this situation. Their camp stood on the north-east border, and commanded an extensive view of the plain. It is 500 yards square; the walls to a considerable height were strongly built,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick, with stones brought from a quarry two miles distant; the stones have been gradually removed, and the walls are now almost levelled by the plough. In the course of ploughing, fragments of weapons, and some entire utensils, were formerly found. There are two *tumuli* or *barrows*, and a redoubt, on the south-east side of the camp. A few years ago, the largest of these barrows was opened, and consisted of a rich black mould, possibly composed of the ashes of the funeral pyres that had been consumed there. It is now distinguished by a clump of trees. Inchtuthil is likewise believed to have been part of the land granted by Kenneth III. (who began his reign in 977,) to Hay, for his bravery in the battle of Luncarty; and his descendants possessed it till the beginning of the seventeenth century. William, Fifth Earl of Errol, (who succeeded in 1506,) was in his father's lifetime designed William of Caputh, and Master of Errol."

Cairnmure, or the Big Cairn, is about a mile and a-half north-east of the church, and is the largest in the county, being 456 feet in circumference, and 14 feet in height. It formerly gave name to the property in that district, but its origin and use are quite unknown. At some distance to the south-west, stands another,

357 feet in circumference, and 14 feet high. In a line with these two, and at the same distance, there is a third of a smaller size. Near the burying ground there are the remains of a *cairn*, where probably a *cross* had once been erected in Popish times, as the place is still called *Crosscairn*. Near the top of the craig of Stenton, (a remarkable detached conical hill, about a mile west from the church,) is a place called Kemp's Hold, or the Soldier's Fastness, bearing evident marks of having been a fortified spot. About two miles north of the church, in a very elevated situation, between the farms of East and West Cuilt, there is a small Druidical circle. Beside it are two larger stones, deeply sunk in the ground; the top of the lowest is artificially formed into an inclined plane, facing the south, and contains a number of small cavities, which may have been used by the Druids in the performance of religious rites.

*Mansion-Houses.*—The principal residences of proprietors are, Delvine House, the seat of Sir John Muir Mackenzie, Bart., a plain, but commodious building, and placed in a most beautiful and sheltered situation, on the extremity of the remarkable table-land before-mentioned. Meikleour House, the seat of Lady Keith, on the north bank of the Tay, a little above its junction with the Isla, and opposite Kinclaven Church. Snaigow House, the seat of the late James Keay, Esq. Advocate, recently erected, upon the model of the English baronial style of building, about two miles north of the church. A little to the north of Snaigow is Kincairney House, the seat of Mungo Murray, Esq. Glendelvine House, the seat of James Valentine Haggart, Esq. S.S.C. is at present erecting (1839,) on a similar style with Snaigow, about a mile north-east of the church. Stenton House, belonging to Captain Beaumont, opposite to Murthly Castle, on the Dunkeld road, one mile west of the church. Hillhead, belonging to Dr Henry Fisher, an elegant building, on the summit of the brae, on the east of Dunkeld, romantically overlooking the town, the river, the bridge, and ducal palace, and commanding a panoramic view of the adjacent scenery.

*Manufactures.*—Happily for the peace and purity of our quiet rural population, no spinning mills have yet been erected; neither is any great public work going on at present in this parish.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population does not appear to have varied much during the last half century, and for the last twenty years has been nearly stationary. This is owing to the absence of all feus, and the se-

veral villages being the properties of the respective land-owners, which they have built chiefly for the accommodation of their own labourers and tradesmen.

The population given by Dr Webster in 1755, was	2048
As taken by the Rev. William Innerarity in 1784-85,	2028
By ditto, 1791-92,	2045
According to Parliamentary census of 1811, males, 1062, females, 1198,	2260
1821, 1094, 1219,	2307
1831, 1128, 1180,	2308

There are several villages in the parish, containing from 10 to 60 families. The largest is Spittalfield, upwards of a mile eastward of the church, in which is the parish school. It is entirely the property of Sir John M. Mackenzie, and contains nearly 300 inhabitants. The next in size is Caputh, including all the houses adjacent to the church, occupied by 250 persons. The next is Meikleour, the property of Lady Keith, five miles east of the church, containing nearly 200.

The average of births for last seven years,	524
of marriages,	172
of deaths, about	16

Number of illegitimate births for the last three years, 1 per annum.

The principal, and almost sole permanently resident heritor, is Sir John M. Mackenzie of Delvine; of the others, a few reside only during the summer months; and the rest are scarcely ever seen on their properties, or care to be kept in remembrance by any good deed done in the parish.

*Language.*—The Stormont dialect, of course, prevails, in which the chief peculiarity that strikes a stranger is the pronunciation of the Scotch *oo* as *ee*, poor being pronounced *peer*, moon *meen*, aboon *abeen*, &c. The Gaelic is not spoken by any of the natives; but not a few Highland servants have of late been engaged by farmers and others who understand the English or Scotch very imperfectly, and who thereby occasion some annoyance to the minister in his parochial rounds of visitation and examination.

*Habits.*—The people are quiet and industrious, remarkable for their kind and benevolent disposition towards one another, and retaining much of the old rural simplicity and frankness in their manners. In general they are sober, temperate, and exemplary in their habits; and were it not for the very culpable conduct of those in authority licensing so many public houses, intemperance would be unknown among them. But so long as a license is granted to every man who takes it into his head to sell whisky, and rub thoughtless tradesmen and labourers of their hard-won earnings, dissipation and immorality must spread and prevail among the lower classes, and the country become the haunts of vice as much as the



towns. A road extends straight through the heart of this parish, of eleven miles in length, from Dunkeld to the Bridge of Isla. On that line of road there are seven (and were lately eight) public-houses! Can all these be necessary? or is it possible for servants driving their master's horses along this road to resist these seven temptations, if they have a sixpence in their pockets?

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.\*

There is now very little undivided common in the parish.

*Rent of Land.*—The rent of the arable land ranges from about L. 1 to L. 3 per imperial acre. The average rent of land in the parish is probably about L. 1, 15s. The best soil, and consequently the highest rented, lies along the north bank of the Tay.

*Husbandry.*—In no part of the surrounding country has the style of husbandry more rapidly advanced. All the recent improvements have been eagerly adopted, and are generally practised. Ground bones have been largely applied ever since they were first introduced as a manure into Scotland; it is of the greatest advantage, on account of the distance from the weightier manures, as it enables the farmer to pursue a more extensive system of green cropping, and consequently of keeping and feeding more sheep and cattle on the farm. This, as well as common manure, has been applied at Delvine as a top-dressing to the pasture grass with the most beneficial effect; bone dust, at the rate of 20 bushels per acre, and common manure at the rate of 15 tons per ditto.

Mr James Liston, Hallhole, in this parish, some years ago, invented a very efficient and economical apparatus for dibbling bone manure, which he attached both to double and single turnip sowing machines. A great many of these have now been made, and old machines altered agreeable to Liston's plan, and found to answer well. These divide the bone manure most equally, at any rate from 7 to 20 bushels (or even upwards) per acre, and in small quantities at any given number of inches apart. (See Quarterly Journal of Agriculture.)

*Draining.*—Smith's (of Deanston Works) method of frequent draining and deep ploughing is yet but partially known in the district; but will unquestionably in a few years be generally and profitably applied, especially in the higher parts of the parish, where the subsoil is close and retentive, and the harvests generally late. From the results already experienced of this system in those places where it has been adopted, it seems the best calculated to effect a

\* The writer is indebted for the article Industry to Mr George Bell, Factor, Delvine.

great improvement, not only in the labouring of the soil, but also in the quantity and quality of the crops; and it is presumed that proprietors can in no way more effectively and permanently promote at once their own, and the interest of the tenant, than by giving liberal encouragement to carry it into full operation.

*Embanking.*—After sudden thaws or heavy rains the Tay frequently rises to a great height, and is therefore liable to inundate the low grounds along its sides. At Delvine it rose in 1831 fifteen feet above the lowest mark there in 1826. The late Sir Alexander Muir Mackenzie, and Lady Keith, raised embankments to a great extent, and on the most scientific principles; these, with self-acting flood-valves on the drains, &c. now completely protect these estates from all ordinary inundations of the river.

*Live-Stock.*—The cattle are of a mixed breed. The larger and finer breeds of Teeswater (short-horned) and Ayrshire being introduced among the original stock, which were principally of the Angus-shire doddled cattle, have much improved it. They grow to a good size, are early fattened, and are generally sold in Blairgowrie, for supplying the London, Glasgow, and Edinburgh markets.

*Horses.*—The local agricultural associations have done much for the improvement of the breed of horses for agricultural purposes, by awarding high premiums for the best Clydesdale horses to travel the district.

*Sheep.*—Many of the farmers are getting into the way of keeping a few Leicester sheep, which, from the high price of wool, and the benefit these are to the land, are rather a profitable stock. Others of them purchase what is termed a flying stock in the autumn. These are in general three year old wethers, which they feed off on their turnip, and sell them the following spring; but what is more general, the farmers let their turnip with fodder, to graziers and others, to be eaten down by sheep. The sheep husbandry is much approved of, and found very profitable on dry soil.

*Swine.*—There is a great variety of breeds of swine. However, the large mill swine are most sought after from the great size they grow to, but the American and the original Highland breed are of much better quality.

*Wages.*—The wages of a common farm-servant vary from L. 12 to L. 14, with board and lodging; and those of women servants from L. 5 to L. 7 for the year; labourers from 8s. to 10s.

per week; women employed in field-work, from 8d. to 10d. per day; carpenters and masons from 12s. to 18s. per week.

*Leases and Farm Buildings.*—The leases on farms of moderate size are generally for nineteen years. The farm buildings have been much improved of late, and are now good and commodious.

*Quarries.*—At Newtyle, on the Dunkeld or Atholl estate, and about two miles to the eastward of Dunkeld, a slate quarry has been extensively wrought for many years. The colour is a beautiful dark blue, and the quality durable. There is abundance of good limestone in many parts of the parish. On the Gourdie estate limestone has been most extensively burnt, to the great advantage of the adjoining country. The quality is good, and lime might be sold at a moderate price, but for the expense of the coal, which hitherto has been carted from Perth, a distance of seventeen miles; however, coal may now be procured at Cupar Angus, which will shorten the carriage about one-half. The construction of the kilns is such that the manager of the works, some years ago, obtained a premium from the Highland Society.

*Fisheries.*—There are several fishing stations on the Tay and also on the Isla. However, I am sorry to say, that the farm-servants in the parish may now safely omit a clause in their engagements, in former days regularly inserted, namely, that they were not to be offered fish oftener than three times a-week.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Towns.*—There is no market-town in the parish. The nearest are, Dunkeld, five miles west from the church; Blairgowrie, seven miles north-east; Coupar-Angus, ten miles east; and Perth, the county town, twelve miles south.

*Means of Communication, &c.*—Dunkeld is the post-town, and a daily runner between that and Delvine House accommodates all within the intermediate distance.

The only turnpike road in the parish is that between the boat of Caputh and Dunkeld, a distance of five miles, which is beautifully Macadamized, and is allowed to be the finest approach to the splendid scenery of Dunkeld. There is an excellent statute-labour road from the church to the bridge of Isla, six miles in length, another branching off northward to Clunie, and a third, branching off the latter, by Snaigow and Loch of the Lows, to Dunkeld, all kept in constant and thorough repair, so that every part of this extensive parish is easy of access. There is no coach or public

conveyance, that runs through any part of this parish,—which is a source of inconvenience to travellers. About four years ago, a railway was projected between Perth and Dunkeld, which would have passed by Stanley mills, and then have crossed the Tay, and run westward through a great part of Caputh. But upon a survey being made, the estimated expense was found far to exceed any profits ever likely to be realized by it, and the scheme has therefore been dropt. Had it succeeded it would have been of very great advantage, not only to this part of the Stormont, but to a great part of the Highlands, by saving carriage and cheapening fuel.

*Bridges, Boats, &c.*—The Tay, bounding the parish entirely upon the south, and the Isla on the east, must have presented a great obstacle to traffic in former times, when there were no bridges, and but very indifferent boats. Now that obstacle is greatly remedied, if not entirely removed. Since the last Account was written two splendid bridges have been built, and two boats of a novel and ingenious construction have been erected, at the most suitable places on these rivers. The elegant and spacious bridge of Dunkeld, erected by the late Duke of Atholl in 1809, supplies the place of a dangerous ferry, which long existed a little to the east of it, called Eastferry. Nearly about the time that this commodious outlet was formed at the west end of the parish, another was opened at the eastern extremity, by a bridge thrown over the Isla, a little above its junction with the Tay, and which connects the Perth and Blairgowrie roads. Again, at Caputh Ferry, opposite the church, in the centre between these two extremes, in place of the common chain-boat which formerly plied there, in 1834, a boat was erected, under the superintendence of the late Sir Alexander Muir Mackenzie of Delvine, consisting of a large platform placed upon two long narrow-pointed boats lying parallel to each other and at several feet distant, which, by a simple machinery, are made to present their sides to the action of the stream, and are thus propelled to either side of the river, and the greater the strength of the current, the more rapid the conveyance across. A chain is also stretched across the river, and which, passing over a fly-wheel fixed to the side of the platform, keeps the boat in a straight course. It is capable of taking in four loaded carts at one time, without unyoking the horses, and the passage is performed in five minutes. By this ferry access is obtained to Perth by Stanley, the former being distant from the boat eleven miles and

three-quarters, and the latter, four miles and a-half.\* Another boat after the same model has been very recently placed on the ferry at Meikleour, five miles below Caputh boat, by which the Blairgowrie and Stanley roads are joined.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church stands on a commanding eminence about 400 yards due north of the boat. Though placed near the south border of the parish, and above eight miles from the northern extremity, it could not have been situated more conveniently, being in the heart of the population, and nearly equidistant from the west and eastern extremities. It was built in 1798, and is a plain and commodious structure, seated for 800, but easily containing 1000. It has at this present date (Oct. 1839) undergone considerable repairs and improvements, both internally and externally, and has received a new porch at each end, by which it is rendered more comfortable. The old church stood on the rising ground, called the Mute-hill, about 600 yards west of the present, and where the burying-ground still is, around which a most substantial new wall is just now building and nearly completed. The ground on which the present church is built was given by the late Sir Alexander M. Mackenzie, on condition that no interment should take place within the new enclosure. There are no seats let, save two or three pews, belonging to a property attached, *quoad sacra*, to another parish, let on behoof of the poor at a very low rate. The heritors subdivide their respective portions among their tenants. But while the farmers have accommodation for their families, many of the villagers have no family seats, and are obliged to press into any empty space they can find.

*Manse.*—The manse was built in 1803, and last year was repaired and considerably enlarged, and is now a commodious and comfortable habitation. It is situated in a most choice and sheltered spot, having the little wooded brae, on the top of which the old church stood, immediately at its back, concealing it from the Dunkeld road, and the glebe in front stretching down to the river, which is about 200 yards south of it, and the splendid new castle of Murthly, rising among the gigantic trees on the further bank, and the classic Birnam hill, towering in majestic grandeur in the distance. The offices were built in 1818, and are in excellent order. The glebe consists of 10½ Scotch acres of superior arable land contiguous to the Tay, of the yearly value of L. 27.

\* The inventor and fabricator of this boat was Mr James Fraser of Dowally, who had before constructed a similar one to ply upon the Tummel at Logiehall.

In 1807, an *excambion* was made of 16 acres of hill common belonging to the minister for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres, lying before the manse, and now annexed to the east side of the glebe. The stipend was last modified in 1824 to 255 bolls, 1 firiot,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lippies, two-thirds meal, and one-third barley, with L. 12, 3s. 10d. in money, including L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

There is no chapel of ease, nor Dissenting meeting-house of any description within the parish. The whole population belongs to the Established Church, save nearly 30 Seceders, and 5 or 6 Independents, and as many Episcopalians; the latter, and some of the former, usually attending the parish church.

The Lord's Supper is dispensed twice a-year, in June and October, the number of communicants at the former occasion averaging 800, and at the latter, 600. There are upwards of 1000 communicants altogether.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The church-door collections for the last seven years have averaged L. 80 per annum, exclusive of several very liberal collections for extra purposes, and dues arising from hearse, mortcloth, &c. Happily as yet no assessment for the poor has been needed; though the increasing list of paupers may render this unpleasant mode of raising funds for their support ere long indispensable. There are at present 29 regular paupers receiving from 4s. to L. 1 per month, besides some who receive occasional aid.

The only mortification in behoof of the poor was that of Mrs Steel at Ruffel, who, in the year 1536, bequeathed the sum of L. 200 to the kirk-session, the interest of which only is allowed to be used. The capital is at present in the Edinburgh National Security Savings Bank, and, with the consent of the session, the interest is chiefly applied to the education of poor children.

*Education.*—There are 5 schools. The parochial school in Spittalfield is well situated, and well attended. The salary is the maximum. The house and garden are good. The school-fees are, 2s. 6d. for reading; 3s. for reading and writing; 3s. 6d. for arithmetic, &c.; and 5s. for the higher branches of education. The total amount of fees received by him per annum is about L. 18. There is a school in Meikleour, with a house and salary of L. 5, 5s. from Lady Keith. The three others are in Caputh village, Snaigow, and Butterston, and one on the teacher's own adventure. The means of education are well supplied, and there are few, if any, who cannot read, and most can write. Beside the

day schools there are 5 Sabbath schools at the above places respectively, attended by upwards of 300 scholars, and which undoubtedly are instrumental in promoting the religious knowledge and morals of the young.

*Libraries.*—There is also a Sabbath school library on the itinerating principle, having a press with books at each school, which are given out to the scholars only on the Sabbath, when the class is dismissing. Once a year the presses are arranged, and moved forward to the next station or school; and thus one library is subdivided into five, and a constant interest kept up by the annual change of books. There are at present about 600 volumes altogether, and the number is from time to time increased, by means of occasional collections and donations. There are also small village libraries for more general reading in Caputh, Spittalfield and Meikleour respectively; but they are now nearly superseded by the Sabbath school library.

*Savings Banks.*—A Savings Bank was established in 1815, but the number of depositors is not great. The young men seem more disposed to become members of friendly societies, of which there are several; and a good many persons are members of two or three of these at once, and thus, in case of sickness or infirmity, are able to draw from several sources a tolerable support. These societies are well conducted, and are of incalculable advantage to the working classes.

*Fair.*—The only fairs held in the parish are at Meikleour in the months of June, August, and October, for cattle.

*Public Houses.*—There are 9 public-houses in the parish, and 3 in the immediate vicinity of it!—the one-half of which are a nuisance. There are also two distilleries, one at Stralochie, and the other at Haughend.

*Fuel.*—Coals, carted from Perth, are almost the only fuel that can be procured. Sales of oakwood and thinnings of plantations frequently take place, which are eagerly looked after by the working classes, as coals are very expensive. There are no peats to be found, save at a moss beyond Keimore, a distance of nine miles from the church, and therefore of no service to the parish in general. The scarcity of fuel is, perhaps, the greatest hardship to which the poor in this quarter are subjected. The session endeavours so far to remedy this evil by annually distributing a certain quantity of coals among the more needy, and which are generously carted by the farmers gratis.

1839.