

THE CAIRNGORM PARISHES AND THE (OLD)
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF SCOTLAND.

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I

SIR JOHN SINCLAIR of Ulbster, Baronet, (b. 1754, d. 1835), Member of Parliament, traveller, and student of political economy and commerce, was one of Scotland's busy patriots. Having conceived the idea of compiling a "Statistical Account" of Scotland on a parochial basis, he issued in May, 1790, to the clergymen of all the parishes in Scotland, a schedule of questions, asking information on all the many topics that should be treated of in such an account. The first list of questions numbered 160, and there was a supplementary list of 6, and another of 5. These questions are given, together with the history of the whole work, in its 20th volume. Sir John was so far fortunately successful that within two years of the issue of the questions he had received 525 parish descriptions, and within four years 798. But the remainder were got with difficulty; some, indeed, by dint of persistently repeated applications were extorted from the clergy, but in 25 cases they were prepared by 'statistical missionaries,' who were sent to gather the desired information. The work was printed as the material came to hand, so that the parishes are scattered through the volumes in no topographical order. The first volume appeared in 1791, and the twenty-first in 1799.

The work is a remarkable example of what can be accomplished by the co-operation of many willing workers acting under the control of one competent head. Some of Sir John's remarks are worth quoting. "On my arrival at Edinburgh, in May 1790, to attend the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, of which Assembly I was a Lay Member, and with the leaders of which, I

lived on terms of intimacy and friendship, it fortunately occurred to me, that I might prevail upon that respectable body, to furnish such information, respecting the general state of Scotland, as might enable me to give a sufficient idea of the political situation of that part of the British empire. My original intention was, to have drawn up a General Statistical View of North Britain, without any particular reference to parochial districts; but I found such merit and ability, and so many useful facts and important observations, in the communications which were sent me, that I could not think of depriving the Clergy, of the credit they were entitled to derive, from such laborious exertions, and thence was induced, to give the Work to the Public, in the manner in which it has been printed." "The most natural mode of obtaining information, and the one which I originally adopted, was that of printing and circulating Queries, as many individuals might be inclined to send answers to any questions put to them, who would not take the trouble of drawing up a regular Report. I accordingly addressed a Letter to the Clergy, and enclosed Queries in it." "Many people were at first surprised, at my using the new words, *Statistics* and *Statistical*, as it was supposed, that some term in our own language, might have expressed the same meaning. . . The idea I annex to the term, is an inquiry into the state of a country, *for the purpose of ascertaining the quantum of happiness enjoyed by its inhabitants, and the means of its future improvement*; yet as I thought that a new word, might attract more public attention, I resolved on adopting it, and I hope that it is now completely naturalised and incorporated with our language." "Experience, however, soon proved, that altho' considerable progress might thus be made, yet that it was impossible to expect, without still greater exertions, the unanimous assistance of so numerous a body as the Clergy of Scotland. Many circumstances prevented unanimity on such an occasion. Some disliked the scheme from the beginning, or, having rashly given an opinion against it, before they had thoroughly understood its nature or object, were ashamed

afterwards to retract. Some were prevented by old age and bodily infirmities, some owing to family distress, and some by the jealousy of their parishioners, who thought that the whole was a deep laid scheme, set on foot by Government, with a view to taxation; whilst the tenants, in many country parishes, did not much relish the inquiries which were made into the produce of the soil, the value of their cattle, &c., apprehensive that their landlords, might avail themselves too much of that information. In short, from a combination of such circumstances, after writing many thousand letters, and the exertions of above two years, I found, on the 1st of June 1792, that no less a number than 413 accounts were still wanting." "At last, on the 1st day of January 1798, or seven years, seven months, and seven days, from the commencement of the attempt, an account of every parish in Scotland, was either given in, or might be relied on, in the space of a few days." "I cannot conclude, without returning my warmest acknowledgments, to the many respectable characters, by whose assistance I have been enabled to complete this Work. By their exertions on this occasion, they have immortalized themselves, and the order to which they belong; and the greatest compliment that in future can be paid to any body of men, will be, that they are as learned, as able, and as public-spirited, as those members of the Church of Scotland, who assisted in drawing up the Statistical Accounts of the different parishes in North Britain, and enabled the person who engaged in so bold an undertaking, to accomplish a Work, unequalled, in regard to the success with which it has been attended,—the number of persons therein employed,—the extent of useful information which it contains,—and the various important advantages to be derived from it."

Sir John was quite entitled to compliment his colleagues and himself on the quality of their work, for the "Statistical Account" is a monumental and a model work. It affords a strikingly vivid picture of the condition of Scotland at the time when it was written, a time of much change in many parts of the country, and it offers also

much that interests the antiquarian and the student of folk-lore.

We print here, with small omissions, the accounts given of the parishes that lie round the Cairngorm Mountains, Rothiemurchus (vol. iv., 1792), Abernethy and Kincardine (vol. xiii., 1794), Crathie and Braemar (vol. xiv., 1795), and Kirkmichael (vol. xii., 1794), following as closely as possible the text of the original, but carrying footnotes up into the text.

ROTHIEMURCHUS. By the Rev. Mr. Patrick Grant.

Name, Situation, Soil, &c.—The parish of Rothiemurchus was united to Duthil in 1625. Sir James Grant of Grant is patron. The name in Gaelic is *Raat-mher-ghuish*, 'great plain of fir.' It is situated in the county of Inverness, Synod of Moray, and presbytery of Abernethy; extends 7 miles from E. to W. upon the south banks of Spey; 4 miles in breadth. Bounded by the parish of Duthil on the N. from which it is separated by the river Spey; on the W. by Kingisich; on the S. by Athol and Braemar; on the E. by Abernethy. The nature of the soil near the banks of Spey is deep and fertile; but, in general, is shallow. There is an inexhaustible quarry, more properly a mountain, of limestone, in the centre, with abundance of fuel. There are 2 small lakes, abounding with char. Lochnellan, one of them, exhibits a scene most picturesque and romantic, and by the situation of the surrounding hills are formed 5 very remarkable echoes. Upon a small island in Lochnellan, is a castle, built time immemorial; the walls of which are still entire.—To the birds common in this country may be added, in the parish of Rothiemurchus, tarmagans, the only inhabitants, through all seasons, of the tops of the highest mountains.

Population.—The amount of the numbers at present is 280, all of the established church.

Agriculture, &c.—Number of cattle, 180; sheep, 2300; horses, 95. There being a number of wood manufacturers, the parish does not supply itself with provisions. The land-rent is £300; wood, at an average, £300.

School, Poor, &c.—The only school is that established by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge. The salary is £10 Sterling. That, and the perquisites, amount to about £15. The number of scholars seldom exceeds 30.—The number of poor is 7. The annual contributions for their relief do not exceed £3; and there is no other fund.

UNITED PARISHES OF ABERNETHY AND KINCARDINE. By the Rev. Mr. John Grant.

Name, Extent, Soil, Surface, Climate, &c.—The name is

descriptive of the situation of the church, with respect to the river *Nethy*, being near the entrance of it into the Spey. Abernethy, or the *Inver*, or termination of Nethy, is in Gaelic, Aberneich. The meaning of the name *Nethy*, or *Neich*, is not known; that of *Kinchardine*, or *Kinie-chairdin*, is the "Clan of Friends." In what follows, both parishes must be frequently mentioned under the name of Abernethy.——[Footnote.] About one half of it is in the county of Murray, the other half in the shire of Inverness. The middle part being in Murray, and the two extreme parts of it in Inverness-shire. It is a little remarkable, that at the south east point of this parish, between Glenloch and Glenbrown, the shires of Inverness, Murray and Banff meet; so that when standing on the Bridge of Brown, one may throw a stone into any of the three counties.——It is 15 miles in length, and from 10 to 12 in breadth, and about 30 miles from the sea at Inverness, Nairn, or Findhorn. The surface is very much diversified with corn-fields, woods, and mountains. The soil is various; some parts deep, others thin and dry, some wet and cold. A stretch of about 3 miles of low deep land and meadow, on the bank of the Spey, is often overflowed in times of flood. The Spey here runs smooth and slow, and of course the overflow is so too. Although many hundreds of acres are in this situation, and would increase greatly in their value, if free of this encroachment; yet it appears doubtful if embankments could save the ground; and still more problematical, whether the acquisition would be worth the expense, which behoved to be very great, on account of the great height to which the Spey rises at certain times. What increases the difficulty is, the great body of water which, in time of floods, comes from the mountains in the Nethy and smaller rivulets, and which would come in behind the embankments; besides, the proprietor has a great deal of land on the other side in the same predicament, so that double embankments would be necessary. The arable land bears but a small proportion to the uncultivated. A great proportion of the surface is covered with woods, much of it in hills, mountains, and rocks. The ground rises towards the mountains, and the air and climate vary accordingly. Healthy every where. The people in general enjoy health to a degree that is not exceeded in many parts of the kingdom. The small-pox is the only disease that is remarkably fatal. Inoculation is not general, though, upon the whole, peoples prejudices against it are much removed.—— [Footnote gives instances of longevity.]——

Rivers and Lakes.—The only river of any note, besides the Spey, is the Nethy, which, rising in the high hills, intersects the parish, running through or near the fir-woods, for about 7 miles, and empties itself into the Spey. In dry weather, it is very inconsiderable; but after rains or thaws, it swells so as to bring down loose all the timber that is cut in the woods, either to the saw-mills

or to the Spey, whence it is sent in rafts to the sea at Garmouth. There are several lakes in Kinchardine; the most considerable of which, is the oval bason in Glenmore, nearly two miles diameter. It is in the bottom of the glen, surrounded with fir-woods, rising gradually towards the mountains. Here is a pleasant scene in a fine summer day. In Glenmore likewise, there is a green loch, in extent about one acre, full of small fat green trout. At the foot of Cairngorm, is Loch Aven, from whence the river of that name issues, containing plenty of trout, but dry and indifferent ones to eat.

Cave and Mountains.—At one end of this loch, surrounded with vast mountains, is a large natural cave, sufficient to hold a number of men secure from snow, rain or wind. People often lodge here for nights, some for necessity, others when hunting or fishing. It is commonly called Chlachdhian, or the “Sheltering Stone.” Of the whole range of mountains in view of the parish, the *Cairngorm*, (or blue mountain), is the most remarkable. Stones of value are sometimes found at and near it, but rarely now, and that sometimes by chance or accident; at other times, by digging for them. Some pretend to know the vein where they may most likely be. It is an employment not worth following. Numbers of stones of variegated colours, and regular sides, as if cut by the lapidary, are found above ground, particularly after thaws or floods, which wash off the surface, but when examined, seldom worth anything. These high mountains, to the south of the parish, occasion much cold and frost. Cairngorm is seldom free of some snow any time in summer. On the tops of these high mountains, there is very little pasture, but a downy foggy cover on the rocks. The fir-woods never grow up the sides of these high hills, or approach the regions of cold. Cairngorm commands an extensive view. Ross, Sutherland, and Caithness, are seen from it.

Woods, and the Progress of Manufacture.—Besides a great deal of birch and alder, there are two very large fir-woods in these parishes, almost meeting in one place. The fir-wood of Abernethy, belonging to Sir James Grant, is of great extent, and of an exceeding good quality, and very thriving; but it is kept from coming to a great size, by a constant manufacture, for about 60 years backward. Before then, the making of deals by saw mills was little known, and less practised. The first and early method of making deals, was by splitting the wood with wedges, and then dressing the boards with the ax and adze. A high room in Castle Grant appears to be floored with deals made in this way, and never planed. The marks of the adze across the boards are still visible. And though this floor appears to be of great antiquity, such is the superlative quality of the timber, that it may continue as sound as it is now hundreds of years hence. This floor has another mark of antiquity, the nails appear all to have been made by a country-smith, ac-

cording to the times ; the bonnets being as broad as a small half-penny. Afterward the country-people got the small-framed saw. There being no demand for deals, neither did they know how to send them out of the country, the heritors took anything they could get for the wood that was manufactured. It is not a very long time back since the Laird of Grant got only a merk a year, for what a man choosed to cut and manufacture with his axe and saw ; people now alive remember it at 1s. 8d. a-year, afterwards it came to 3s. 4d. and then the Laird of Rothiemurchus, commonly called Maccalpin, brought it up to 5s. a-year, and 1lb. of tobacco. Brigadier Alexander Grant, (who died in 1719), attempted to bring some masts from his woods at Abernethy to London. But though a man of great enterprize in his military profession, did not persevere in this, owing to the many difficulties he had to encounter, such as the want of roads in the woods, skill in the country-people, and all kinds of necessary implements. About the year 1730, a branch of the York-building Company, purchased, to the amount of about £7000 of these woods of Abernethy, and continued till about the year 1737 ; the most profuse and profligate set that ever were heard of then in this corner. This was said to be a stock-jobbing business. Their extravagancies of every kind ruined themselves, and corrupted others. Their beginning was great indeed, with 120 working horses, waggons, elegant temporary wooden houses, saw-mills, iron-mills, and every kind of implement and apparatus of the best and most expensive sorts. They used to display their vanity by bonfires, tar-barrels, and opening hogsheads of brandy to the country-people, by which 5 of them died in one night. They had a Commissary for provisions and forage, at an handsome salary ; and, in the end, went off in debt to the proprietors and the country. But yet their coming to the country was beneficial in many respects ; for, besides the knowledge and skill which was acquired from them, they made many useful and lasting improvements. They made roads through the woods. They erected proper saw-mills. They invented the construction of the raft, as it is at present, and cut a passage through a rock in Spey, without which, floating to any extent could never be attempted. Before their time, some small trifling rafts were sent down Spey in a very awkward and hazardous manner, 10 or 12 dozen of deals, huddled together, conducted by a man, sitting in what was called a *Currach*, made of a hide, in the shape, and about the size of a small brewing-kettle, broader above than below, with ribs or hoops of wood in the inside, and a cross-stick for the man to sit on ; who, with a paddle in his hand, went before the raft, to which his currach was tied with a rope. This rope had a running knot or loup round the man's knee in the currach, so that if the raft stopt on a stone, or any other way, he loosed the knot, and let his currach go on, otherwise it would sink in a strong stream ; and

when, after coming in behind the raft again, and loosing it, he proceeded again to make the best of his way. These currachs were so light, that the men carried them on their backs home from Speymouth. There is one of them now in the parish of Cromdale below this. The York-building Company had 18 of the currachs in their employ at first, with which they made little progress, till Mr. Aaron Hill, one of their number, constructed the large raft, as it is at present, consisting of two or three branders or spars in the bottom, joined end to end, with iron or other loupes, and a rope through them, and conducted by two men, one at each end, who have each a seat and oar, with which they keep the raft in the proper direction. It is pleasant to see a number of them going down at once; each of them carry down variously, according to the quality of the timber, from £10, £15, to £20 worth; and at an average, the expense of each raft to Speymouth, is about £1, 10s. At present, there are 4 saw mills in Abernethy.

Glenmore Wood.—About 8 years ago, the Duke of Gordon sold his fir-woods of Glenmore, in the barony of Kincardine, for £10,000 Sterling to an English Company. There were some inferior companies tried it formerly, but were not successful. It appears pretty certain now, that this Company will succeed in bringing away all the wood within their contract, before their lease is out, which was 26 years; and it ought to be the wish of every well-thinking person, that they may have profit in the end, as they do much good to the country. They are regular and just, and carry on their business in every department of it with much exertion and propriety. This was the oldest, the largest, and the best quality of fir wood in Scotland, and the best accommodated for water-carriage to the Spey, by means of the loch before described, that is in the heart of it, and out of which a river issues, that brings down even their masts loose to Spey, a distance of 5 or 6 miles. The quantity of spars, deals, logs, masts and ship-timber, which they send to Garmouth or Speymouth yearly, is immense, and every stage of the process of manufactory, brings money to the country; generally once a year, they send down Spey a loose float, as they call it, of about 12,000 pieces of timber, of various kinds; whence they send it to England, or sell it round the coast. For some years, they have sent great numbers of small masts or yards to England to the King's yards, and other places, and have built about 20 vessels of various burdens at Garmouth or Speymouth, all of Glenmore fir. Among others, there is one now on the stocks, above 500 tons.—[Appendix gives the name of the firm as Messrs. Dodsworth and Osbourne.]—Without doubt, these manufactures raise the price of labour and other articles, and make servants for the farmer more difficult to be got. The fir-woods of this country exceed all the natural fir-woods in Scotland put together, with comparison. Sir

James Grant's woods of Abernethy, of many miles circumference ; next, the Duke of Gordon's, in Glenmore ; then Mr. Grant of Rothiemurchus's, who is supposed to have more trees than either of them ; then the Duke's again ; after that, the Laird of M'Intosh's in Glenfishy, all in a line, of about 20 miles in length, on the south side of Spey, and all having the advantage of abundance of water to bring them to Spey. Besides, Sir James Grant has another wood, of an excellent quality, on the other side of the country, or the river Dulnan.—

[Footnote.] *Quarupeds and Birds, &c.*—Red-deer, roe, foxes, hares, moorfowl, partridge, tarmakan, eagles, hawks, and the other birds common in the Highlands of Scotland, abound here.—

Population.—According to Dr. Webster's report, the population then was 1670. The exact number in this parish at present is 1769,

Produce, and State of Husbandry.—The animal productions consist of black cattle, sheep, some goats and horses. The principal proprietor does not encourage great sheep-farms, nor are there any large tracts laid waste for such flocks. It is computed, that two or three farms in Abernethy, which are wholly given to sheep, and what the English Company have in their own possession in Kincardine without tenants, had about 200 inhabitants when let in small farms. However, the sheep are greatly increased of late years, and the farmers endeavour to keep as many cattle as formerly ; so that, like Pharaoh's kine the one consumes the other. The sheep are almost all of the black-faced kind, though few have the breed genuine, but crossed. By the tenants increasing their number of sheep, and still striving to keep up their former number of black cattle, neither the sheep can be expected to be sold fat, nor the cattle in general in decent marketable condition ; by which means they must always be sold at prices inferior to what they would fetch if properly grazed ; so that the parish in general is only a nursery for raising lean cattle and sheep, to be fattened elsewhere.

—[Footnote suggests that cattle and sheep should not be fed together on the hills ; sheep should feed on the hills, and cattle in the lowlands. Also more horses should be reared.]—The crops here are barley, oats, rye, potatoes, chiefly the small black oats ; on some farms pease and a good deal of white oats. The crops here are often precarious, and frequently misgive to a very distressing degree. There are only 5 farms in the parish in any degree of improvement : On these there are good houses, offices, and some good enclosures, limed and prepared with green crops for grass, which answers well. Pease grow well in limed fields here. These farms have the advantage of the best climate in the parish. They are ploughed with English or Scotch ploughs, according to the ground. Upon these, there are good horses, oxen, carts, and the other modern

implements. The want of hard wood in the country is a drawback; because, without it, there can be no durable instruments of husbandry. There are several neat farm-houses built of late through the parish; but the farms themselves in general are in no better state than they were 160 years ago. The braes, or Highland parts of the parish, are not subjects for the modern improvements in husbandry, but they might be much benefited by liming, the limestone and peats being near their fields in one quarter, but hitherto that has not been attempted. The absurd ridiculous method of run-ridge still takes place in a great part of the parish. ———The produce of the parish is corn and potatoes; it never maintains its inhabitants, and often, when a failure happens in the crop, falls far short; some often buy meal for 6 months in the year. . . . attention ought to be given to increase the value of cattle, because all depends on the returns from cattle, sheep, wool, butter and cheese, for paying rent, servants, &c.

Language.—The common living language of the people, in which they converse, do their business, and are instructed, is the Gaelic; and the names of places are all Gaelic ones.

Rent and Heritors.—The valued rent is £1553, 16s. Scots; the gross land-rent of the two parishes, besides the woods, is about £1500, Sterling. ———The heritors are two, Sir James Grant and the Duke of Gordon. The Earl of Moray has the superiority of these lands in the parish, of Sir James Grant's, which are in the county of Elgin, one of the many instances of feudal absurdity, which separates the superiority from the property.

Stipends, Schools, Poor, &c.—Sir James Grant of Grant is patron. The stipend is only £64; a process of augmentation is now depending. The glebe about 5 acres of middling land. The manse and offices lately repaired. The church of Abernethy is elegant, and the church of Kinchardine, 8 miles from Abernethy, a very good sufficient plain house lately repaired; both church-yards well enclosed with a wall and hedge, and a belt of wood about 3 yards broad.—There are two schools in the parish, and a catechist from the Royal bounty. The parochial salary is 200 merks, and a good school-house. The Society's salary in Kincardine is £9, and one of the best school houses in the Highlands.—There is no parochial fund for the poor, but the weekly collections in the church, which will not exceed £6 a-year at an average, there being no residing heritors. These collections are not sufficient to buy shoes for the poor, for the half of the year. ———[A subsequent footnote says that such highland shoes as the people here wear have increased within these 20 years from 10d. and 1s. to 3s. and 3s. 6d. the pair.] ———They live on the farmers, by begging from door to door. It is in this way the parishioners give their charity chiefly, which they do very liberally. . . . This is a heavy burden upon the tenants,

and calls upon heritors to contribute to their relief.—[Footnote mentions the disadvantage of the method of engaging servants half-yearly, and the comparative dearness of peats as fuel.]——

Antiquities.—There is a large oblong square building near the church, called Castle-Roy, or the Red-Castle, on side 30, the other 20 yards, the height about 10. It never was roofed, has no loop holes, and only one entrance to the inside. Neither history nor tradition gave any satisfying account of it.

Eminent and Remarkable Men.—[Two are named, the Hon. John Grant, late Chief Justice of Jamaica, and John Roy Stuart, of the Scots Grays.]

Roads and Bridges.—It was only about the year 1764, when the present proprietor Sir James Grant entered to the estate, that roads were begun in this part of his estate, called Strathspey, which is about 30 miles in length. Since which period, he has made above 130 miles, when the whole is added together. The roads in this parish, are remarkably good, and going on yearly, by means of the statute-labour. The great roads are made through these parishes by Sir James Grant and the Duke of Gordon. Cross roads are now going on, which will prove highly serviceable. The Duke of Gordon has made one uncommonly good cross-road, from Glenmore to the Spey, for his English Company. There is one excellent bridge, built about 25 years ago, by Sir James Grant on the river Nethy, at his own expense, and 2 smaller bridges to the east by him, with some assistance from the county of Inverness. Another bridge is begun, on a very troublesome rivulet, near the church of Kinchardine on the Duke of Gordon's property, with assistance from the county of Inverness.

Manufactures.—There are no manufactures in these parishes, but that of wood, as has been already mentioned.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The size of the people is generally very good ; at an average 5 feet 6, 8, and 10 inches, and many above that height ; hardy and active in their persons ; generally sagacious and well informed according to their station ; frugal and economical, and in general very sober. There is no whisky still in the parish, because there is no grain for it. None have been condemned for a capital crime, since the days of the regality jurisdiction. They make hardy, clean, tractable soldiers when in the army ; numbers of them are excellent marksmen. Their chief attachment is to Highland corps, which Government ought to make always as provincial as possible ; this would increase their attachment, and their spirit to a degree that none can understand but such as know their tempers. A man that is harsh and austere, and fond of severity and punishment, is not fit to command a Highland corps ; but their officers, do them justice, speak to them in a discreet friendly manner, and encourage them by a little familiarity, and they find them re-

spectful, attached and obedient. The vagabonds that are recruited in cities and towns, ought never to be allowed to mix with them. The method adopted by Government of late, in making their Highland Fencibles provincial ones, is a wise measure, and will answer the end proposed. It is peculiar to this parish to have two heritors, who have got each a Fencible regiment. The Duke of Gordon, and Sir James Grant, and who have not only raised them in three weeks and a few days, but have each of them supernumeraries, for additional companies, in forming a considerable part of second battalions, if Government should need them; and all recruited in an easy, discreet, smooth manner, without force or compulsion. Men so pleasantly got, and so content when well used, cannot miss of giving satisfaction to their officers, and may be relied on by the nation. The people here are loyal to a degree that cannot be surpassed; amazingly attached to their King, because they like his character and his virtues, and that he is a good man. Political or religious fanaticism have got no footing here; of course it is very easy to live in peace among them. There are no religious sectaries here, the people being all of the Established Church. Their language, their garb, their social situation, their climate and modes of husbandry, have kept them hitherto a people different in character and manners, from the inhabitants of the low country, and from being misled by the doctrines of those itinerant fanatics that infest the coast. The poisonous doctrines of political pamphlet writers, have made no progress among them; yet many of the people here seem often much dissatisfied with their condition in some respects. What they complain of chiefly is, the method followed in letting their farms when their leases are expired. It is seldom that the tenants are called on to renew, till within a few months of the term of removal, and then perhaps, left for years in suspence, before they are settled with, and tried for some addition every year; and every year receiving a summons of removal. The offers received are generally kept private; and when they get a lease, it is only for 15 or 19 years, which they think too short. The effects of this method are very bad, both for master and tenant. For during the last 2 or 3 years of the lease, they are under apprehensions of being removed, and of course plough up what they ought not, or would not, if they were certain of continuing; and all this while, careless about the repairs of their houses and buildings. By these means, they either hurt themselves, if they continue, by renewing, or their successor if they remove, and the proprietors interest in either case. Besides, that while people are kept long in suspence, it occasions much unhappy anxiety, and restlessness of mind.—[Footnote suggests various improvements in the method of arranging leases.]——

Cattle markets.—The people here, as well as in many parts of

the Highlands, have but too much cause to complain of losses sustained by the failures of little drovers. It is thought, by some, that this might be prevented from being so frequent. The common method of buying cattle is, for any one that attempts droving to call a market for himself when he sees proper. The necessity, ignorance, or greed of many, induce them often to venture their cattle, for a shilling or two more a-head, with a man that would be ruined if he lost a crown a-piece by his parcel at Falkirk. Sales are by these means often partial, and seldom general,—picking a few beasts here and there out of parcels. . . . Considering what a fatiguing, hazardous business droving is, men that pay well ought to be much sought after, and much encouraged.—[Footnote, admittedly out of place, complains of the insufficiency of ministers' glebes in general, and in the Highlands in particular.]—

Progress of Civilization.—It is worth observing, what change there is in the modes of thinking of the people within these last 45 years. Two events have contributed, in a remarkable manner, to a better way of thinking, and submission to order and government. The rebellion of 1745-6 in its good effects, and the subsequent abolition of the jurisdiction act. Previous to that period, property was chiefly protected by force, and the existing laws known in theory, but little regarded in many parts of the Highlands. Thieving was a trade in many countries, and carried on on a large scale, with much contrivance and sagacity, and countenanced sometimes in private by those who undertook, for a certain pay called *black meal* [*sic*], the protection of neighbouring districts. President Forbes of Culloden paid his proportion of this assessment, before the 1745, to a certain person to the west of him, whose power and influence were so great, that he would have ruined his estate if he had refused to comply. The land of Moray being, it seems, always a land of plenty, seems to have been devoted to be plundered. The people to the west appear to have claimed a right to a share of the productions of it. They used to regret, that their corn-stacks would not drive like their cattle.—

[Footnote.] There is a remarkable correspondence between Allan Cameron of Lochiel, and the Laird of Grant about 140 years ago, wherein the principles of the times are clearly seen. The correspondence is published in Sir John Dalrymple's Collection of original papers and letters. The story is briefly thus: a party of the Camerons had come down, to carry a *spreath* of cattle, as it was called, from Morray; they unluckily carried off the cattle of Grant of Moynes in Nairn-shire. Moynes complained to his Chief, the Laird of Grant, and he sent a party after them, and after a sharp conflict, brought back the cattle. Lochiel writes a letter to his friend the Laird of Grant, regretting the misfortune, asserting that when his *friends went out*, they did not intend to trouble his Honour's land; nor did they know that Moynes was a Grant, otherwise they would not have gone near him, or troubled him more than any man in Strathspey, but they went to Morayland,

he says, "where all men take their prey." Lochiel mentions the number of killed and wounded of his friends in the skirmish ; and says, they were all so much taken up about the curing of their friends, that they could not attend to any business for the time. But when that was over, he was willing to refer the whole to their mutual friend Seaforth, which was done ; and it does not appear, that Seaforth had much difficulty in making the two chieftains as good friends as they were before. A little after this period, the Laird of Grant was obliged to build a stable within his court, to prevent his own brother from taking away his best horses. This stable was taken down about 40 years ago. The incumbent remembers when the people of this country kept out a watch in the summer-months, for protecting their cattle, and these watches kept up by a round of duty, and reliefs at certain periods. In this country, where that business was not followed professionally for some time past, the people in several places and passes were often obliged to be discreet and hospitable to these intruders, as they went to the low countries, and no doubt there were connivers and aiders among them, who knew very well for what they were so.——

The humiliation produced by the defeat of the undertaking of 1745-6, and the wise plan of employing the Highlanders in 1757 in the public cause, contributed by degrees to introduce loyalty and submission to the laws into the very seats of disaffection and rapine. The conduct of the people, when employed in support of the nation, showed that they were only misled at home. It is to be regretted, that so many thousands of these now loyal brave people have been forced to a foreign shore by necessity, for want of employment, habitation, or ground to subsist on. However advantageous the sheep-farming may be, it is possible it may be overdone ; and if ever that happens, it will be found to be impolitic in every sense, as it is cruel in many places at present. It is dangerous in these times to drive poor people to desperation, or it may make many disposed to join in tumults and riots, who would never think of them if they had a home and the common necessaries of life. To increase our gratitude for the protection afforded by our constitution to the lives and properties of individuals in these countries at present, we will mention the blessings we enjoy by the abolition of the jurisdiction-act in the year 1748. That delegation of feudal power was dangerous in the extreme, because it was generally abused. When we consult the traditional history of the country for a century and upwards past, and the extraordinary conduct of some of these despots, the bailies of regality, and the precariousness of life and property often within their jurisdiction, one is excited to grasp with fondness the Government that has annihilated their dangerous power. They often punished crimes, by committing greater ones themselves. They often, no doubt, tried by jury ; but some of them, at other times, in a summary, arbitrary, and extraordinary manner.—— [Footnote gives instances of the arbitrariness and grasping cruelty of certain Bailies, and one instance of revenge.]——

UNITED PARISHES OF CRATHY AND BRAEMAR.

By the Rev. Mr. Charles M'Hardy.

Name, Situation, &c.—Crathy is of Gaelic derivation, probably from *Cruaidh-achadh*, "hard or stony fields," as the parish, in general, is rocky, and full of stones; or from *Craoibh-achadh*, "fields or ridges, intersected with wood." The ancient name of Braemar was *Ceann-androchait*, which, in Gaelic, signifies "bridgend." There is no certainty at what period they were united. They are situated in that district of the county [*sic*] called Marr, in the very middle of the Grampian hills. They are distant from Aberdeen about 50 English miles. The length of both parishes from E. to W. is about 40 miles, and about 20 in breadth; the inhabited part of which is about 30 miles long, and from 6 to 10 in breadth. The parish of Braemar is supposed to be more elevated above the level of the sea, and farther removed in every direction from the coast, than any other parish in Scotland.

Climate, Soil, Produce, &c.—The climate is healthy, and many of the inhabitants live to a good old age. The principal distempers are fevers, gravel, rheumatism, and colic. When a malignant kind of the small pox prevails, it carries away a number of children; yet the body of the people are not reconciled to inoculation. The soil is various; in some parts a light loam, in others a thin clay; but, in general, shallow and sandy; yet, when properly cultivated, produces, in a favourable season, good crops. The ordinary crops raised by the country people, are, oats, bear, and potatoes. Turnips and clover, with rye grass, are cultivated by a few gentlemen. There was very little lintseed, till of late, sown in these parishes, although it was found to answer exceedingly well, for this reason, that there was no lint-mill in the county; but that grievance is now, in a great measure, removed, as Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld has built a lint-mill at Castletown of Braemar. The consequence is, that the people, in general, sow more lintseed; and from the advantages they derive from this branch of farming, it is probable that, in a few years hence, another lint-mill, at least, will be necessary in this part of the country. As there is no map of the parishes, it is impossible to say what number of acres are in tillage. Oats are sown in April, or sooner, if the season permits, then lintseed, and potatoes, and bear from the beginning to the middle of May. The time of harvest is extremely variable; beginning sometimes about the 15th of August, and sometimes not till the 1st or 5th of September.

Mountains and Minerals.—The greater part of the two parishes is mountainous. Some of the mountains are probably the highest in Scotland: Of this description are the mountains of Loch-na-

garaidh, on the S. side of the parish; Binn-na-baird on the N.; and Binn-na-muick-duidh on the W., &c. Upon these mountains, and others connected with them, there is snow to be found all the year round; and their appearance is extremely romantic, and truly alpine. On them are found pellucid stones, of the nature of precious stones, equally transparent, beautiful in their colour; and some of them, particularly the emerald, as hard as any oriental gem of the same kind. The most common are, the brown, of different shades, and next the topaz. There are also beautiful amethysts and emeralds, though these are rare to be met with, particularly the latter; and what is remarkable, amethysts only are to be found on Loch-na-garaidh; emeralds, topazes, and the brown on Binn-na-baird; topazes and the brown kinds only on Binn-na-muick-duidh [*sic*], and the other mountains in these parishes. The first of these stones that attracted notice, and were cut by a lapidary, were found on Cairn-gorm, in Strathspey, but connected with the above ridge of mountains, which gave rise, though very improperly, to the general name of Cairn-gorm stones. Both the parishes abound with granite of different kinds, and various shades, which is used for building. It is very hard in its nature, and when polished, looks as well as marble. There is limestone in great profusion. On Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld's property, in the parish of Braemar, is a little quarry, from which are brought almost all the slates made use of in this country.

Forests, Woods, &c.—The greater part of the united parishes of Crathy and Braemar, have been originally King's forest, and known by the name of the Forest of Marr. This forest, with those of the Duke of Atholl, and Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld in Perthshire, and the Duke of Gordon in Badenoch and Glenaven, constituted the principal part of the great northern Caledonian forest. In the deepest mosses or morasses, within the immense range of extensive forests above mentioned, there are to be found large logs, or roots of wood (even where there is not a tree now to be seen standing), which affords the most incontrovertible evidence, that they have formerly been over-run with timber.

The only part of the forest of Marr, which is now used as kept forest, is in Braemar. The Earl of Fife and Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld, have, each of them, extensive forests, which are well stocked with red and roe deer. From the great care and attention which has been paid to these animals for some years past, they are now so numerous and domesticated, that they are to be seen in numbers from the windows of the houses of Invercauld and Marr-Lodge. At the latter place, about the beginning of May, 100 stags have been seen at once feeding on the lawn. The soil of this

country, in general, is favourable to the growth of forest trees. Besides birch, a kind of poplar, known by the name of quaking ash, the alder, the roan tree, or mountain ash, a species of the willow, &c. &c. There are, in these parishes, extensive natural fir woods, belonging to the Earl of Fife, Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld, Mr. Gordon of Abergeldie, and Mr. Farquharson of Inverey; as also, large plantations of Scotch firs, and other trees. Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld alone has planted above 14 millions of the former, and upwards of a million of larch, with a great variety of others. Mr. Gordon of Abergeldie has planted Scotch firs to a very considerable extent, besides other trees; and the Earl of Fife has also made plantations of Scotch firs, and other kinds.

Rivers, Lakes, &c.—The Dee is the principal river. It has its source on a hill called Gaibh-chor-Dhe [*sic*], in Lord Fife's forest; and running through the united parishes of Braemar and Crathy, and a great many other parishes, with vast rapidity, empties itself into the German ocean at Aberdeen, at the distance of about 90 miles, in a straight line from its source. If the windings of the river were measured, it would be little short of 50 more. It produces salmon and trout in great plenty, with some pike and eel. Several small rivers and rivulets fall into the Dee before it reaches Crathy, particularly the Geallaidh, the Luidh, the Eidh, the Coich, the Cluanaidh, &c., which are all well stored with excellent trout: the Cluanaidh produces salmon. In the parish of Braemar, there are many lins or cascades, particularly those of Coich, the Mulzie, the Garrabhalt, &c.; but the lin that deserves most notice, is that of the Dee, not so much on account of the height of the fall, as the singularity of the rivers being confined for upwards of 60 yards between two rocks, within so narrow a space, that some persons have been fool hardy enough to step from the one rock to the other. The principal lakes in the parishes, are Loch Callader and Loch Bhrotachan, both on Mr. Farquharson's property, and well stored with excellent trout. Loch Callader produces fine little salmon, of about 7 or 8 lbs. weight, and some eel. It will be above 2 miles in circumference. Loch Bhrotachan is smaller, but produces large delicate red trout.

Animals.—The quadrupeds are horses, cows, sheep, swine, red and roe deer in abundance, foxes, martins, pole cats, wild cats, white and brown hares, badgers, otters, &c. The fowl are, eagles, hawks of different kinds, kites, black cock, grouse or moorfowl, and tarmagan; besides every other species common in the Highlands of Scotland. There are in the parish of Crathy, 529 horses, 919 black cattle, 5591 sheep. In the parish of Braemar, 466 horses, 930 black cattle, and 9000 sheep. In both

parishes, 995 horses, 1846 black cattle, and 14,591 sheep.—
[Footnote] It is to be observed, that the above falls short of the real numbers, as the people would not give up an exact account, lest government might have it in contemplation to tax them.—Besides the above, there are about 800 or 900 black cattle grazed in the summer season, and about 2000 of the above number of sheep sent to other places to be pastured through the winter.

Population.—The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, was 2671 souls. In the parish of Crathy, there are 700 Protestants, 150 Papists, and 164 children under 7 years of age. Total 1024 souls. In the parish of Braemar, there are 455 Protestants, 580 Papists, and 192 children. Total 1227. In both parishes, 2251 souls. . . .

State of Property.—The proprietors of these 2 parishes, of whom Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld is the principal, are 8, viz. The Earl of Fife, James Farquharson, Esq. of Invercauld, William Farquharson, Esq. of Monaltry, James Farquharson, Esq. of Balmeral [*sic*], Charles Gordon, Esq. of Abergeldie, William M'Donald, Esq. of Rincaton, the Reverend Thomas Gordon of Crathynaird, and John Erskine portioner of Achallader. One heritor resides constantly, 3 occasionally; and there are 4 who do not reside at all. The valued rent of both parishes, is 3347l. 16s. 8d. Scotch. The real rent 1826l. Sterling.

Price of Labour and Provisions.—The general wages of day labourers of every description, are double what they were 20 or 30 years ago. The wages of male servants, about 30 years ago, were from 1l. 15s. to 2l. a-year; at present they are from 4l. to 6l. a-year; maid servants, at the above period, had from 1l. to 1l. 10s. a-year. Now they get from 2l. to 3l. About 30 years ago, a fat cow, which at present costs from 5l. to 6l., could have been purchased at 2l. 2s., or 2l. 10s.; a fat wedder that sells now for 12s. or 14s., could have been bought then for 5s. or 6s., and other butcher meat in proportion. Poultry, &c. now sell as under, viz. a live goose from 2s. to 2s. 6d.; ducks from 8d. to 10d., hens 6d., chickens 3d. each, eggs 1½d. the dozen, milk 2d. the Scotch pint, butter 9d. the lb. of 28 ounces, and cheese from 4s. to 6s. the stone of 28 English lbs. [There is a footnote on Lady Sinclair's dairy]. Barley sells from 15s. to 20s., oats from 12s. to 16s. 8d. the boll; potatoes from 4d. to 8d. the peck, and wool from 9s. to 20s. the stone, of 30 lbs. English. The fuel commonly made use of is peat, turf, heath, and sometimes fir and birch.

Manufactures.—The only branch of manufacture in this country, is the spinning of linen yarn. Lint is imported from Aberdeen at the expense of the manufacturing company, and left with the shopkeepers in the united parishes; and they are allowed

a certain profit for the trouble of giving out the lint, and taking in the yarn. The common price paid for the spinning, is from rod. to 1s. 3d. the spindle. This brings a considerable sum of money into the country; by which the greater part of the poorer families are supported, and enabled to pay the rents of their houses, and small crofts of land. The women, in general, spin with both hands.

[A long footnote tells how Lady Sinclair taught and encouraged spinning 'on the little wheel' about the middle of the eighteenth century; "previous to this, lint was spun on the rock or distaff only, and wool on the big wheel."]

Exports and Imports.—The exports are wood, black cattle, sheep, butter, cheese, wool, woollen cloth, &c. The imports are oatmeal, salt, iron, linen, flax, leather, lawns, muslins, &c.

Language.—The language generally spoken is the Gaelic. Most of the people, however, understand so much of the English, as to be able to transact ordinary business with their neighbours of the Low Country. It was once thought an object of political attention to use means for eradicating this ancient language from the Highlands of Scotland. It is to be presumed, that the Legislature now entertains very different views. For experience has fully evinced, that there are no better soldiers in the day of battle than the Highlanders, and that honour, humanity, decency, and good order are not incompatible with the use of the Gaelic, and of tartan plaids and philabegs. All names of places in the country, whose etymology can be traced with certainty, are Gaelic.

Ecclesiastical State.—The present stipend is 820 merks, with 20l. Scots for furnishing communion elements. There are 2 churches, one in Braemar, and one at Crathy. The church of Braemar is a very neat, decent church, with a most excellent church-yard wall round it, built with stone and lime. It is supported almost at the sole expense of the Earl of Fife and Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld. The church of Crathy, though kept in repair at the joint expense of all the heritors of the 2 parishes, the Earl of Fife excepted, is in very bad order, and too small. The church-yard wall is in the same situation.

There are 2 Roman Catholick priests who reside constantly in Braemar, besides 1 who comes occasionally to the parish of Crathy.

Schools, Poor, &c.—There are 2 schools, viz. the parochial school, situated near the church of Crathy, with a salary of 100 merks, besides session-clerk fees, and other quarterly payments; and one of the Society's schools in Braemar, with a salary of 14l. Sterling, and other perquisites.——The number of poor who receive supply is upwards of 70. The funds for their support are the weekly collections, the interest of 120l. at 5 per cent., and the

rent of a gallery in the church of Crathy, amounting in all to about 26l. Sterling. The late John Farquharson of Invercauld, and father of the present proprietor, mortified 5000 merks for the purpose of maintaining and educating some poor boys of the name of Farquharson at the charity schools.

Roads and Bridges.—The military road from Blairgowrie to Fort George goes through the parishes of Braemar and Crathy, which was completed in 1749, at the expense of government. Bridges were likewise built over all the rivers and rivulets upon this line of road, at the same expense. The county roads are made and kept in repair by the statute-labour. The service is indeed, for the most part commuted, and every man, between 16 and 60 years of age, is obliged to pay at the rate of 1s. 6d. yearly. The proprietors employ a proper road grieve, with a party, to work on days-wages, till the sum arising annually by this commutation is expended; and it is found, from experience, that there is more road made by this mode, and to much better purpose, than when the people performed their statute-labour. I cannot pass over this article of improvement, in justice to the memory of the late Mr. Farquharson of Monally, without mentioning how much the public in general, and this county in particular, are indebted to his disinterested and public spirited exertions. That gentleman, with a laudable spirit of patriotism, was the first person who undertook made roads in Aberdeenshire, which he carried on with exertion, and at a great expense, to a considerable extent, for several years before the 1745. Having, however, unfortunately engaged in the Rebellion, and being kept a prisoner for 18 years in England, the country was, during that period, deprived of his services. On obtaining his liberty, he immediately renewed his public spirited improvements, wherever he had any influence, but chiefly in the 5 parishes of Braemar, Crathy, Glenmuick, Tullich, and Glengarden (which, indeed, form a separate and distinct district of this county); and from that time till his death, which happened in the year 1790, he continued with unremitting attention, and at great expense, to forward the building of new, and the repairing of old bridges; the making of new, and repairing former roads; in which he was ably supported by Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld (whose abilities in directing and executing roads are very uncommon), and, in some degree, by all the gentlemen in the county: so that, upon the whole, it may with great propriety be asserted, that during the last 25 years, no part of the Highlands of Scotland, of the same extent, has gained more in roads and bridges by private subscription, than the 5 parishes above described.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The 2 parishes of Crathy

and Braemar, in general, have many, perhaps more, advantages within themselves, than some of the neighbouring parishes; and the people, though not very industrious, are yet intelligent, humane, obliging, and much given to hospitality. But still much might be done to better their circumstances, were such branches of manufacture as the country is calculated for, established and carried on by persons of experience, ability, and spirit. As the soil is very favourable to the growth of flax, and as there is a great deal of wool annually exported, it is to be presumed, that the manufacture of woollen and linen cloth would be attended with the greatest success. There are likewise some good situations for bleachfields.

There is one disadvantage which this county in general labours under, and that is, the want of moss roads. The mosses, for the most part, lie at a distance of 2 or 3 miles from the tenants, and over almost inaccessible hills; by which means they are obliged to carry home their fuel on horseback. This makes them keep a greater number of horses than their farms can well bear; consequently the horses are of a small size: but were proper roads to be made, the tenants in general would keep larger horses and fewer of them, and would provide wheel carriages. This is clearly evinced upon the estate of Monaltry. The present proprietor, merely to accommodate his tenants, in the year 1790 and 1791, carried on and finished a very complete road to an inexhaustible moss. It is carried over the summit of a high hill, yet so well directed, that the acclivity is scarcely felt: the expense, no doubt, was considerable; but the consequence is, that since that period most of the tenants have provided themselves with carts, and, in a few years hence, it is very probable, the whole tenants on the estate will do the same.

Another disadvantage, which prevails in some places of the country, is the personal services of the tenants. Wherever the tenants are expected to thrive, personal services should be dispensed with and commuted. That which has longest kept up, is the providing a certain quantity of fuel for the master, yearly, with some long and short carriages. This interferes much with the labours of the husbandman, as his whole time is employed in providing his own and his master's fuel, from the time the seed is sown till the beginning of harvest. Thus he loses all that time in which he ought to provide manure for his land; and though there is limestone in great profusion near, or perhaps upon, his farm, yet he can derive no benefit from it. Several of the proprietors, however, have commuted their services. Were this mode generally adopted, and the tenants encouraged to build decent houses, it would conduce much to the comfort of the farmer, and the interest of the landlord.

There is a third disadvantage, and which is exceedingly pernicious, not only to this county, but almost to the whole North of Scotland; and that is, the depredation made on the sheep, game, and poultry by foxes and other vermin. There was a scheme planned some years ago by Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld, and carried into execution by him and the other heritors, for the preservation of sheep, game, and poultry, and for the destruction of foxes, wild-cats, pole-cats, eagles, hawks, &c., from which the parishes of Braemar, Crathy, Glenmuick, Tullich, and Glengarder, derived more real benefits, than perhaps from any other improvements that could be introduced into this county. It commenced the 15th January 1776; and before that period, the destruction of sheep was so great, that it is thought the value of the sheep annually killed by vermin, in the above parishes, was nearly equal to half the rent paid to the proprietors. The scheme was this: The heritors entered into a private subscription among themselves, out of which a premium was paid for every animal or bird that was brought in to the cashiers, by such persons as were authorised by the association to carry arms for the destruction of foxes, etc.; and who had been previously sworn not to kill game: and, it is believed, that out of more than 100 persons, who had warrants for this purpose, not one of them ever trespassed in that respect. The whole subscriptions in the 5 parishes amounted to about 40 guineas a-year; and the scheme continued for 10 years, with so great success, that during that period there were killed 634 foxes, 44 wild-cats, 57 pole-cats; 70 eagles, 2520 hawks and kites, 1347 ravens and hooded crows;——[Footnote.] For the first year, the premiums extended only to foxes, eagles, gosacks, and falcons; the second year, wild-cats, pole-cats, small hawks, and kites, were added; and the third year, ravens and hooded crows were also included.——besides all those which were destroyed by poison, or died of their wounds: and sheep were then in perfect safety to pasture at all times and seasons to the very boundary of where the scheme extended. Unfortunately, however, for this county, some of the heritors (for reasons best known to themselves) withdrew their subscriptions. The other subscribers were obliged, 8 years ago, to give up the scheme; the consequence of which is, that the destruction of sheep has gradually gained ground, and game of all kinds decreased in the same proportion. It is much to be regretted that the scheme was dropped; but the experiment has sufficiently evinced the following fact, viz. that if such an extensive track of mountainous country as the 5 parishes above described, where there is a great deal of wood, and where foxes and other vermin poured in from neighbouring countries as

mountainous as this, derived such real advantages from a scheme carried into execution on such a contracted scale as 40 guineas a-year; still greater advantages must be derived from a scheme of this kind, if it was extended over the whole Highlands of Scotland.

A fourth disadvantage is, the distance from a port [?] town, which is 50 miles in any direction.——[Footnote.] I see with pleasure a branch of the post-office extended lately from Aberdeen to Kincardine O'Neil; but this country can derive little or no benefit from it, being still 33 miles distant from the Castletown of Braemar. Was the extension of this branch to be carried to that place, this whole country, instead of sending a man weekly to Cupar Angus for letters and newspapers, would put all their letters into this office to go round by Aberdeen, which would bring an additional revenue of 3d. at least, for every single letter, and would, it is presumed, more than indemnify government for the expenses incurred in the establishment of it.——

Antiquities.—There is, upon the estate of Castletown of Braemar, the ruins of an ancient castle, built, as tradition reports, by King Malcolm Kenmore for a hunting seat. By the vestiges which still remain, it is obvious, that there was a very considerable building. The house stood on the top of a rock on the E. side of the water of Cluanadh; and the King having thrown a drawbridge across the river, to the rock on the opposite side, the parish of Braemar derived its original name of *Ceann-androchart* from that circumstance. On a little mount in the Haugh of Castletown stands the castle of Braemar. It was originally the property of Farquharson of Invercauld, and given to a second son of that family as his patrimony. About the end of Queen Mary's reign, these lands were exchambed with the Earl of Marr for the lands of Monaltry, and, soon after his accession to the estate, he built the present house. King William, after the Revolution, took possession of it for a garrison, and put some troops into it to keep the country in awe; but this had not the desired effect, for the country being of the opposite sentiments at the time, besieged the garrison, and obliged the troops to retire, under silence of night, in order to save their lives; and to save themselves from such troublesome neighbours for the future, they burnt the castle. In this state, it continued till the year 1715, when the whole Marr estates were forfeited. About the 1720, Lords Dun and Grange purchased from government all the lands belonging to the Erskine family; and about the 1730, John Farquharson of Invercauld, bought the lands of Castletown from Lords Dun and Grange. About the 1748, Mr. Farquharson gave a lease to government of the castle, and an enclosure of 14 acres of ground, for the space of 99 years, at 14l. Sterling of yearly rent; upon which the house was repaired (the walls being then

sufficient), and a rampart built round it, and it has, since that period, been occupied by a party of soldiers. At the expiration of the lease, or the evacuation of the troops, the house, with the enclosure, returns to Invercauld's family, without any melioration whatever.

On the lands of Monaltry, and on the N. bank of the river Dee, in a narrow pass, where there is not above 60 yards from the river to the foot of a high, steep, rocky hill, stands a cairn, known by the name of Carn-na-cuimhne, or Cairn of remembrance. The military road is carried along the foot of this hill, and through this pass. The tradition of the country is, that, at some period, the country being in danger, the Highland chieftains raised their men, and marching through this pass, caused each man lay down a stone in this place. When they returned, the stones were numbered; by which means it was known how many men were brought into the field, and what number was lost in action. Since that period, Carn-na-cuimhne has been the watch-word of the country. At that period, every person capable of bearing arms, was obliged to have his arms, a bag, with some bannocks in it, and a pair of new mended shoes always in readiness; and the moment the alarm was given that danger was apprehended, a stake of wood, the one end dipped in blood (the blood of any animal), and the other burnt, as an emblem of fire and sword, was put into the hands of the person nearest to where the alarm was given, who immediately ran with all speed, and gave it to his nearest neighbour, whether man or woman; that person ran to the next village or cottage (for measures had been previously so concerted, that every one knew his route), and so on, till they went through the whole country; upon which every man instantly laid hold of his arms, &c., and repaired to Carn-na-cuimhne, where they met their leaders also in arms, and ready to give the necessary orders. The stake of wood was called Croishtarich. At this day, was a fray or squabble to happen at a market, or any public meeting, such influence has this word over the minds of the country people, that the very mention of Carn-na-cuimhne would, in a moment, collect all the people in this country, who happened to be at said meeting, to the assistance of the person assailed.