

DESCRIPTION
OF PARISH
1850s

Scots of valued rent. Previous to the act for the equalization of weights and measures, the Aberdeenshire boll was equal to $1\frac{1}{4}$ boll of the Linlithgow standard. The boll of barley, bere, or oats, was 4 Aberdeen firloths of 136 pints of 60 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. each. The brass standard bushel of Queen Anne, 1707, used in Aberdeen, contained 13 cubic inches less than the Winchester standard; and a bushel used in the county contained 40 cubic inches less. The peck of potatoes was 32 lbs. Dutch; the pound of butter or cheese, from 20 to 26 oz. Dutch; of malt, meal, or corn, 24 oz. Dutch.—The population of Aberdeenshire in 1801 was 121,065; in 1811, 133,871; in 1821, 155,049; in 1831, 177,657; in 1841, 192,387; in 1851, 212,032. Inhabited houses in 1851, 31,743; uninhabited, 768; building, 173. In 1841, 44,013 of the population were under 20 years of age; and 166,352 were natives of the county, 21,998 were born in other parts of Scotland, 1,711 were natives of England, 1,037 were natives of Ireland, 22 were natives of the colonies, and 170 were foreigners,—leaving 1,097 whose places of birth had not been ascertained. The number of persons engaged in commerce, trade, and manufactures, in 1841, was 27,937, or 15.5 per cent.; in agriculture, 25,224, or 13.1 per cent. The number of female servants was 13,377; of male servants, 1,334; of alms-people and pensioners, 1,947; of the medical profession, 341; of the clerical, 220; of the legal, 174; of independent means, 6,837. The number of persons committed for trial or bailed during 1841 was 92, whereof 26 were for offences against the person, and 52 for offences against property. In 1847, the convictions in the county amounted to 216; in 1848, to 163; in 1849, to 267; and in 1850, to 220. In 1849, the number on the poor roll was 7,066,—casual, 1,535; insane or fatuous, 231; orphans or deserted children, 443; and the amount raised for the poor by assessment was £25,847 18s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and from other sources, £8,166 0s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

ABERDONA. See CLACKMANNAN.

ABERDOUR, a parish containing a post-office of its own name, and the villages of Easter Aberdour, Wester Aberdour, and Newtown of Aberdour, on the south coast of Fifeshire. It is bounded by the frith of Forth, and by the parishes of Dalgety, Auchtertool, Kinghorn, and Burntisland. It measures about 3 miles in length, about 3 miles in breadth, and about 5,000 acres in area. But the island of Inchcolm, lying about 2 miles to the south, belongs to it; and a small detached district, called Kilrie-Yetts, lies about 4 or 5 miles to the east. A ridge of hills runs through the main body of the parish, in a direction nearly parallel to the coast. The tract to the north of this lies comparatively high, and has a cold sour soil, and is altogether bleak and churlish; but the tract to the south is genial and generous, and exhibits a profusion of both natural and artificial beauty. The coast is upwards of 2 miles long, and probably comprises twice that extent of shore-line. The western part of it rises gently into the interior, and is feathered and flecked with wood; the centre is indented by the sandy, wood-girt, finely-sheltered bay of Aberdour; and the eastern part is steep and rugged, and has shaggy sheets of wood down to the water's edge, and is traversed through its glades and across its brows by walks, which command most picturesque prospects of the frith and its southern seaboard, and of the hills of Edinburgh and the Pentlands. A rivulet runs windingly from the northern border of the parish, through its centre, partly along a rich little vale, to the head of Aberdour bay; and the embouchure of this is denoted in the name of the parish, which alludes to the adjacency of the village.

Coal, lime, and sandstone abound and are worked. The average rent of land is £2 per acre; and the amount of real rental is about £4,000. The value of the assessed property in 1843 was £5,581 2s. 2d. The principal landowners are the Earl of Morton and the Earl of Moray; but there are six others. The principal mansion is Aberdour House, the seat of the Earl of Morton, who is here called 'the gude-man of Aberdour;' and the other mansions are Hill-side House, Whitehill Cottage, Cattlehill House, and Templehall. The chief antiquities are the castle of Aberdour and a cairn or tumulus,—the latter on a flat-topped hill. The three villages of Aberdour stand adjacent to one another, and are often described as one village, at the head of Aberdour bay, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles west-south-west of Burntisland, on the road thence to Inverkeithing. This place is a favourite bathing resort of the citizens of Edinburgh during summer; and it enjoys the advantage of a steam-boat communication of its own with Trinity. It also has a few small sailing vessels, and does something, though not much, in oyster-fishing. A few of the inhabitants likewise are employed in the weaving of ticking, and in the work of two saw-mills and of a small spade factory. An hospital exists here for four widows, founded by Anne, Countess of Moray. The Earl of Moray presents three of the inmates, and the writers to the signet the fourth. Population of Easter Aberdour in 1841, 307; of Wester Aberdour, 469; of Newtown of Aberdour, 152. Population of the parish of Aberdour in 1831, 1,751; in 1851, 1,945. Houses 313.

This parish is in the presbytery of Dunfermline and synod of Fife. Patron, the Earl of Morton. Stipend, £207 14s. 6d.; glebe, £13. Schoolmaster's salary, £34 4s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., with upwards of £50 fees. The parish church was built in 1790, and repaired in 1826, and has 579 sittings. There is a Free church: attendance, 450; yearly sum raised in 1853, £158 1s. 7d. There is also a Scottish Episcopalian place of worship. There is a colliery school. The lands of Aberdour anciently belonged to the monastery of Inchcolm; and the western portion of them is said to have been given to it by one of the Mortimers for the privilege of burving in its church; and that portion, together with the lands of Beath, was acquired from an abbot of Inchcolm by James, afterwards Sir James Stuart. See INCHCOLM. The parish of Aberdour was formed in 1640 by disjunction from the parishes of Beath and Dalgety. A nunnery of the sisterhood of the Poor Clares formerly existed here. Aberdour bay was a convenient landing-place for any party coming from the continent to the royal court at Dunfermline, and the supposed commissioners sent to escort Queen Margaret of Norway resided in its vicinity; so that the popular reading of the old ballad of Sir Patrick Spens—though not the reading preferred by Sir Walter Scott—is probably correct, which places the catastrophe of the piece midway between Norway and this place, and says,

"Half ower, half ower, to Aberdour,
"Tis fifty fathom deep,
And there lies gude Sir Patrick Spens,
Wi' the Scotch lords at his feet."

ABERDOUR, a parish on the north coast of Aberdeenshire. It is bounded by the sea, and by the parishes of Pitsligo, Tyrie, New Deer, King-Edward, and Gamrie. Its post-town is Fraserburgh. Its extent along the coast is about 7 miles; but its greatest length is not less than 10 or 11 miles. A portion, comprising about 800 acres, is separated a mile or so from the main body, by the intervention of Tyrie. The eastern part of the parish, or estate of Aberdour, is somewhat low and flat, with little diversity of surface. But the western

part, or estate of Auchmeddan, is elevated 200 or 300 feet above the level of the sea, and has a rugged surface, and a large proportion of moor and bog. Several long romantic hollows or deep ravines cleave the high grounds upward from the beach; and each, as they advance, branches off on both sides into lesser ones, which lose themselves among moors and bogs at a distance of about 3 miles from the sea. Little wild tumbling streams descend the ravines to the sea; and the mouth of one of these, called the Dour, gives name to the parish. In the southern district is the ravine or den of Glasby, traversed by the northern head-stream of the river Ugie. The greater part of this side of the parish consists of moors and bogs, interspersed here and there with corn fields. The coast, especially to the west of the church, presents a rocky, precipitous, and lofty front to the sea, insomuch that, in its whole extent, are only three openings where boats can land,—one in the north-east corner, one immediately below the church, and the third at the mouth of the burns of Troup and Auchmeddan, where a small harbour once existed, but is now totally destroyed. Numerous romantic caves pierce the cliffs at and below the level of the sea; and the most remarkable of these, called Cowshaven, served as a hiding-place to Lord Pitsligo after the battle of Culloden, and runs up into the country "nobody knows how far." The rocks of the parish are highly interesting to geologists; and are quarried in several places for granite and sandstone, and in two places for millstones. The total yearly value of raw produce was estimated in 1840 at £13,382 10s. 6d., exclusive of stones and fish, which were estimated at respectively £130 and £360. The value of assessed property in 1843 was £4,510. The chief antiquity is the remains of the castle of Dundargue, a place which made some figure in the civil wars of the 14th century, situated on a precipitous sandstone rock of 64 feet in height, on the beach, and connected with the mainland only by a narrow neck of rock and earth. The village of New Aberdour was founded in the year 1798. Fairs are held at it on the Tuesday after the 11th of April, on the 26th of May, on the Tuesday after the 7th of August, and on the 22d of November; but they are not well attended. Population of New Aberdour in 1841, 376. A small fishing village called Pennan stands on the Auchmeddan part of the coast, and has about half-a-dozen boats. Population of Pennan in 1841, 168. Population of the parish of Aberdour in 1831, 1,548; in 1851, 1,857. Houses, 374.

This parish is in the presbytery of Deer and synod of Aberdeen. Patron, Fordyce of Brucklaw. Stipend, £204 7s. 10d.; glebe, £12. Schoolmaster's salary, £32, with £8 5s. 6d. fees. The parish church is situated at New Aberdour, and was built in 1818, and has 800 sittings. A station of the Free church is also maintained there; but the yearly sum raised in 1853 by the people connected with it was only 11s. 8d. There is a parish school in Pennan.

ABERELLIOT. See ARBRILOT.

ABERFELDY, a small post-town in the parishes of Dull and Logierait, Perthshire. It stands on the Moness burn, on the south side of the Tay, and on the great road down Strathitay, about 5 miles from Taymouth. It consists principally of one long street, a short one joining that about the centre, and a small square at their junction. Its houses are slated, but have small unlintelled windows, and a comfortless appearance. It contains a Free church with 800 sittings, an Independent chapel with 600 sittings, a Baptist chapel with 60 sittings, a branch office of the Central Bank of Scotland, a savings bank, and two public libraries. Fairs are held on

the first Thursday of January old style, on the Tuesday before Kenmore in March, on the last Thursday of April old style, on the Saturday before Amulree in May, on the last Friday of July old style, and on the last Thursday of October old style. The scenery in the vicinity of the town, up the Moness burn, is among the most interesting in Scotland. See **MONESS**. To this the well-known lines of Burns refer,—

"The braes ascend like lofty wa's,
The foaming stream deep roaring fa's,
O'erhung wi' fragrant spreading shaws,
The birks of Aberfeldy.

The hoary cliffs are crown'd wi' flowers,
White o'er the linn the burnie pours,
And, rising, weets wi' misty showers
The birks of Aberfeldy."

In a field adjacent to the town, the 42d Highlanders, so well known by the name of the Black Watch, and so famous for their bravery in battle, were first embodied into a regular regiment. Over the Tay, opposite the town, is an elegant bridge of five arches, erected in 1733 by General Wade. The view from the centre of this bridge is magnificent. On the north are the Weem Rock and the soaring Grampians; on the east are the rich vale of Appin and the turrets and woods of Castle-Menzies; and all round is a sublime amphitheatre, with a foreground of objects ever beautiful and often new, including rich verdant meadows, groves in green array, and the broad and limpid Tay rolling in its cradle of granite to

"The white waves of the restless main."

In 1841, the population of the Dull portion of Aberfeldie was 609; and of the Logierait portion, 214.

ABERFOYLE, a parish, containing a small post-office village of its own name, in the south-west corner of Perthshire. It is bounded on the north by Loch Katrine and Loch Achray, which separate it from Callander parish; on the east by the parish of Port-of-Menteith; and on the south and west by Stirlingshire. Its greatest admeasurement is from the east end of Loch Arclet, on the north-west, to the bridge across the Forth, on the road from Gartmore, in the south-eastern extremity, a distance of about eleven miles; its greatest breadth from north to south is towards the centre of the parish, and about 6 miles. The general aspect of this district is extremely picturesque. It is a narrow tract of country, bounded on every side by lofty hills and mountains. The bottom of the valley is occupied by a series of beautiful lakes, skirted with woods of oak, ash, and birch; and their banks are occasionally diversified with scanty portions of cultivated ground, the soil of which has, in the course of ages, been washed down from the mountains and deposited by the streams. The mountains are in some instances clothed with oak-woods more than half-way up; the lower eminences are, for the most part, covered to their summits; the higher regions are overgrown with heath, and sometimes present only the bare rugged rock. None of the mountains are of the first class in height. 'Huge Benvenue' and Benchochan, are far overtopped by Benlomond, in the parish of Buchanan, which, with its pyramidal mass, terminates the prospect to the west. The rocks are chiefly micaceous granite. There is a quarry of excellent slates, of blue and green colour; and it employs from 20 to 30 workmen, and produces about 500,000 slates per annum. Many of the rarer Alpine plants are to be found upon the mountains. The black eagle builds in some of the more inaccessible rocks; but it is now very rare. The falcon is also found here. The most considerable lakes