

THE CHURCH OF
ABERDOUR

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The name of Aberdour occurs early in record. On the margin of the "Book of Deer" which itself is as old as the ninth century, appear in Gaelic, written in probably in the eleven or twelfth century, notices of grants made to the Monastery of Deer.

One deed thus begins "Columcille and Drostan, son of Congrach his pupil, came from Hi, as God had shown to into them Abbordoboir [Aberdour] and Bede the Pict was Mormaer of Buchan before them and it was he who gave them that town in freedom for ever from mormaer and toisech." According to the legend the grant was made about the 850 A.D. The Church of Aberdour was dedicated to S. Drostan. "S. Drostan" says Mr. Jervise "died at Glenesk in Angus in the year 809. His remains were conveyed from Glenesk to Aberdour where they were deposited in a "tumba lapidea" or [stone coffin] and were long believed to work wondrous cures "upon the sick and the afflicted."

In 1318 Bishop Chein erected the church into a prebend of Old Machar. In the Old Taxation the lands Church of Aberdour was rated at 28 Merks. From the Exchequer Rolls of 1407 it appears that the lands having been given to James of Douglas and then to another he indemnified out of the customs of Edinburgh. About 1408 Fraser of Philorth acquired part of the lands of the barony of Aberdour from the Earl of Douglas as superior. According to the New Statistical Account of Scotland (1835), "the ruins of a Roman Catholic Church are still to be seen at a place called Chapel Den in the land of Auchmedden on a haugh opposite the Tore of Troop. The walls are completely demolished and nothing remains but a heap of stones which have been held sacred by the husbandman; for although in the midst of a cultivated field they have never been touched by the plough".

"The earliest parts of the old kirk of Aberdour possibly belong to the sixteenth century, but the piscina or lavatory and a hexagonal baptismal tank seem to be of an older date. The latter was brought from Chapel Den about four miles to the westward where it is said there was another place of worship" (Jervise)

In the year of the Reformation, 1560, John Ramsay was presented by Sir John Borthwick as minister at Aberdour and Fyvie (?Tyrie). He continued in 1569 having charge of Aberdour, Gamrie and Tyrie with a stipend of 100 merks (£5 11s 1/3stg.)

In 1570 David Howesoun was translated from Philorth, having Gamrie and Tyrie also in charge, with the former stipend. He removed to King

Edward in the same year but returned on being presented to the parsonage and vicarage by James VI on 9th July 1597. He died 1611 having a son Mr John, minister of Tyrie (Scott's *Fasti*)

Alexander Ramsay was Schoolmaster and reader at Aberdour in 1574.

Gordon 1604, May 10—VISITATION OF THE KIRK OF ABERDOUR.
Mr Thomas Rires maid the exercise and Maister John addit. The doctrein approvit.

The minister and eldership of Aberdour compearit and presentit their bulk of discipline which was delivered to be visited.

The elders and deacons called.

John Birny and James Chein in Rathill were found absent and ordeinit to be summoned for their absence at Rathin the next ordinar day of the presbyterie.

The said day the minister and elders were ordanit to choise one common man to keep the paroch fra vagabonds and sic lyke as they will be answerable to the presbyterie.

The minister being tryit and censurit was weell reportit by the elders and parochiners.

The minister was desired to give up the names of the non-communicants within his paroch, wha gave up young Philorth, laird of Esslemont, the sons of Achmedden and then the presbyterie ordeint him to pass to the non-communicants *primo quoque tempore* and to instruct and exhort them to communicate and in case of their refusal to charge them to compear before the Presbyterie.

1605, May 30—VISITATION OF ABERDOUR.

The minister was well reportit by the eldership as lykewayes the minister reportit well of the elders except and that the elders that dwell in Pettendrum hants not the session. They are admonished and ordanit to amend in tyme coming. The kirk found well approvit.

Non-communicants: the laird of Philorth younger and his house, the haill house of Auchmedden.

Excommunicants: Alexander Cheyne, public vagabond, Brander Rirchie, within the bounds of Pitsligo and servitor to the laird. It is ordeint that the laird of Pitsligo be chairgit to the next day for meinteining of Brander Rirchie, ex-communicate. The minister being accused for not proceeding against the guidman of Auchmedden, answerit, he was under process with him and had him chargit to that same day before the Presbyterie who being callit compearit nocht.. To be chargit *pro secundo*.

The session buik of Aberdour delivered to Mr Abraham to be visitit again the next day.

The paroch is found as yet destitute of a common man for outhalding of strange puirell and beggars,—to provyde ane with all diligence.

1605 June 13—Compeared the guid man of Achmedden and being accused for not communicating gaif in the excuse of ane debait with James Chein whilk excuse is found insufficient, therefore the said man is ordenit himself, wyff and family to communicate betwixt that and the first of August next, otherwise the minister, David Howeson, to proceed against him.

1606, June 19—The said day the session buik being productit the haill elders and deacons being read by their names and they were all found present, wha being inquirt of the doctrein, life and conversation of David Howesoun their pastour, upon their aith and fidelitie, gaiff all in ane voice an honest testimonie of his doctrein and honest conversation amongst them as lykewayes being demandit off his fidelitie and diligence in the exercise of discipline he is exhortit to be faithful and painful in the said. He is found to use twice doctrine in the Sabbath in the summer tyme and catechising every Sabbath day.

Lykewayes the minister report well of the concurrence and assistance he had of the eldership, only complaining of them of the Muirs (?) and of Pittendrum wha repairit nocht so aft as they acht, wha being exhortit to mak greater conscience of their calling and to be more faithful onto it, the minister was ordeinit to follow further the Act of the kirk made against absent elders from their ordinar session without ane lawful excuse. The puirell are found sustenit and provydit for by the paroch but no cair nor man appointit for outhalding of strange beggars.

Exhortit to amend and to find out ane man to that effect to the end that conformitie may be and the ordanance of the Synod be obeyed.

The haill families of young Philorth, Pitsligo, Pettindrum and Auchmedden declarit nocht communicants. The minister ordeinit to appoint one public day for celebration of the communion, to mak advertisement to the people and unto every ane of them in particular for waytaking off excuses and in cases of disobedience ordeinit it to proceed to the censure of the kirk against the contumacious outliers and that with all due diligence.

1606, Aug. 28—The said day it was reported to the brethern by David Howeson, minister at Aberdour, that there was variance in opinion and judgement fallen out amongst the elders and gentlemen of Aberdour concerning the doontaking of the middle wall between the kirk and the

quieir and placing of the pulpit there and in special between the lairds of Philorth younger and Pitsligo. Philorth giving reasons why the said wall should nocht be takin doon (as his own commissoners John Fraser in Memsie and David Whyte in Kailyequharne ther present did witness) and Pitsligo alleging the contrarie, that the doontaking of it was to the glory of God and the honor of his house, as also finding falt with the inconstancy of some elders who befor voted to the doontaking of the said wall and now changit their vote.

Wherefore the Presbyterie considering the matter and espying the inconveniency that was to follow hereupon ordenit that the first meeting of the brethren that should happen to fall in December should be at Aberdour, when David Howieson upon the Presbyterie's advertisement shall charge the haill elders, gentlemen and parochiners to be present for considering of the said wark and taking away all debait and variance God's work may be done be in peace and quietness to the glory of his name and honour of His house.

1606, Sept.25—The Laird of Balqueng producit ane bill desiring of the Presbyterie ane tak of the teind schaffes of the toon and lands of Finzynes in the paroch of Aberdour Scherriffdom of Aberdeen and that for his wffis lyftime. The Brethern's answer was that they were not judges competent, but he acht first till have cravit the said tak of the General Assembly wherefore they shaw him the best was to propose his suit to the next Provincial Assembly and in all richt and equity they would assist him.

1606 October—David Howeson reported he had ministrat the communion on the day he had appointed to those who communicate no the last ordinar communion, but none compeared to the communion except only the laird of Pettendrum wherefore the Presbyterie ordenit that they wha communicate no should be proceeded against.

Oct.23 The said day the brethern sought guid that all process against the non-communicants of Aberdour should cease till the day of the ordinar communion was past to see giff they did communicate

Refer (No10) from the Synod of Aberdeen: Next the Presbytery pose David Howeson, minister at Aberdour, upon his conscience giff he has made onie sett of teinds within his paroch, and if he has to proceid against him to deprivation, if not, to inhibit him to sett onie without consent of the Presbyterie and Assemblie.

David Howieson being posit according to the order of the Assemblie giff he had sett ony tak of teinds within the paroch of Aberdour, deponit that he had nocht, The matter is refferit to the Visitation of that Kirk.

1607 April 23—Because it is reportit tha' David Howeson had sett teinds to the Laird of Balquen in Finzies within the paroch of Aberdour, without the consent of the kirk, the Laird being present was inquirt by the said David to declair there to the brethern as he would answer to God if he had receivit the tak of any teinds of him as was reportit and that he would clear his innocence in that point before the brethern.

The Laird for answer replyit that as he said answer to God the said David had neither made him ony set neither of his own teinds nor or any other.

1607 May 9 Visitation—The minister was honestly reportit of in all points of his ministry by the parochiners. The minister reportit weill of the assistance of the elders except of the elders of Pittendrum who were delaitit again to keep na session especially William Pettendrum The said William with four others of the elders in these parts being present were earnestly admonished to amend their bygane remissness, negligence and outlying fra the session, were exhorit to diligence and fidelity in trying and delaiting sic things as within their bounds in special evill slander which they promisit to do as lykewayes it was ordenit that the Laird of Pettindrum should be chargit.

The elders in the Muirs were found mending their bygane negligence, were exhorted to continue. Twa of elders John Cowie and John Cruikshank were found fallen in bluid. The minister and remanent elders were ordenit to travel for their reconciliation. As for the exercises of religion and discipline there is reading, catechising and preaching upon the Sabboth befor noon. Na exercise at efternoone, always the minister promisit during the time of the lang day to use exhortations at afternoone. The session every fifteen days.

Young Philorth, Gilbert Baird his wyff and bairns communicate nocht. The minister was ordenit to enter in process against them with all due diligence. The middle wall as yet still standing, a thing hurtful to edification in the judgement of the brethern therefore their advice was as befor that the wall be taken doon, and seeing that the young Laird of Philorth for the did oppose himself to that wark it was ordenit that he should be dealt with by the Presbyterie for his consent, as likewayes the rest of the heritors should be spoken in that matter and that David Howeson the minister of the paroch enter first in dealing and to report what he effectuates.

David Howeson, being posit if he had made ony sett of teinds within the paroch since his entire deposit that he had made na sett to onie man except to the Laird of Petsligo three years tak of his own teinds allene*ly and thereafter other three years during his lyfetime.

The haill position of that kirk is is twa hundred merks and fiftie, whereof four scoir and fiftein merks fo vicaradge the rest for personadge.

1607 May 13—David Howeson reportit that he had done na thing concerning the middle wall through absence of young Philorth. He was ordenit again to deal with the young Laird in that matter, when ever he should return.

1608 June 6 Visitation—The kirk of Aberdour being visitit and the eldership and parochiners there present diligently enquired concerning their pastour his doctreine, diligence in discipline, in diligence, honestie in lyff and conversation amongst them, all in ane voice gave ane guid testimonie of him and his daily increase in spiritual grace as he grew in years.

Lykewayes the minister being enquirit concerning the assistance and fordearance he had of his eldership reportit weill of some of them by whom he was assistit, yet others especially those of Pettindrum and of the Muirs were very careless and negligent in keeping of the ordinar meetings. They, being admonished for their former negligence and neglect of duty, are exhortit to amendment, and in case they amend nocht but continue this way in neglecting of their office it is ordeint that the absents every ordinar day of the session be notit, censurit in **** to ane penalty for their absence, and in case of disobedience that they be cited befor the presbyterie that by their authority that they be publicly rebukit and depyvit of their of their office giff they amend nocht.

There is found reading, catechising and preaching of the word only upon the Sabboth day befor noone and exercise of discipline anes in the fourtein days. It is ordenit that they may be mair diligent in taking ordour with strang beggars and maisterless servands.

The same day compearit Gilbert Baird and being accusit for his nocht, communicating these sundrie yeirs bygane deponit and proposit befor God that his nocht communicating as nocht for religioun whilk already he had sworn and subscribit but for some particular debates betwixt him and his neighbour James Chein, and seeing friends war enterit to travell in that matter for awaytaking of all controversie between them desyrit of

the presbytery that they wull continue their process against him unto the next ordinar tyme of the communion promising faithfully that whether the debait were taen or nocht he suld prepar himself for to communicate at that tyme without further delay, whilk was granted by the presbyterie.

Mr Charles Ferm and David Howison are ordenit to travell with the young Laird of Philorth for obtaining his consent that the middle wall may be demolished and taen doon for the enlarging of the kirk and easing of the parochiners as they had requirit the Presbyterie thocht guid to be done.

1608 August 18—Compearit John Leslie of Balquain in name and behalf of his spouse as being liferenter of the twa part landes of the toone of Finzies desiring the consent of the presbyterie unto David Howieson, minister at Aberdour for to sett him takes off his teind schaves of the said landis enduring his spouse her lifetyme, and as for augmentation of the auld teind silver for weill of of the kirk submittit himself to the discretion of the brethering.

The Presbterie after advyement thinks guid that David Howieson giffe ane sett of the teind schaves enduring the lady her lyfftyme only, payan thirty four markis as lykewayes

It is grantit that David Howieson sett unto the Laird of Wachtoun nineteen years tak of his third part landes of the toun of Finzies paying thair for yearly in teind silver aucht markes, and to this effect David Howieson is ordenit to serve ane edict at the kirk door on Sunday next and report the next day

The Discipline buik of Aberdour delivirit unto Mr John Gordon for to visit and for he to report the next day. The said day the suit and request given in by Mr William Whyte (Qubeti) indweller in Ardlawhill being advisit upon by the Prestbytery it is thocht guid that David Howison, present minister at Aberdour, give him ane sett of his teind schaves of Ardlawhill for three years upon condition he augment the auld teind silver as he and the said David Howieson could agree, as lykewayes his brother David Whyte, indweller at Killyquharne, get ane sett of his teind achaives for three years upon the condition foresaid.

1608 September 1st—There is productit by David Howieson twa edicts lawfully served and endorsit ane in favors of the Laird of Wachtoun, the other in favors of Jean Austin (Astein) spouse to John Leslie of Balqhuein and that according to the ordinance of the Synod, whilkes being servit unto the same day their compearit no for to object onything against them.

1609 July 13—The said day David Howieson reportit that Gilbert Baird of Auchmedden had communicat and satisfied his discipline at the kirk of Aberdour on Sunday, at the 5th of March, 1609.

1609 July 13—Visitation—There is found ane established session wha being present with others honest men householders in the paroche and enquirit (after removing of the minister) off the doctrein, lyff and conversation of David Howieson, their pastour, all with ane universal consent gave an honest testimony of the said David, as lykewayes the minister reportit weill of the foderance and assistance he had of his eldership.

Only catechising, collection for the pair and preaching upon the Sabbath day befor noone, no preaching of efternoone through age and bodily infirmity of the minister.

Session for exercise and discipline anes in the fifein dayes. No excommunicants or non-communicants except for ignorance. The buik of discipline given up to Mr John Gordon for to be visitit.

The minister reportit that Gilbirt Baird had communicated at Aberdeen, his wyff and bairns at Banff, whereof he was ordenit to get ane testimonial at Banff and report the same to the presyterie.

1609 June 27—It is ordenit that M John Howieson (then minister at Tyrie) supply his father's place in teaching at Aberdour every other Sunday during his father's infirmities. Also it is ordenit that the moderator write to the Bishop of Aberdeen to deal with the Chancellor in the said Mr John his favors for obtaining ane presentation to him to the kirk of Aberdour that giff the Lord will his father to his rest the said Mr John having liberty of transportation grantit to him of the Synod he transport not himself out of the Presbyterie.

1610 August 2—Visitation—The session buik being productit the names of the elders and deacons read and for the maist part found present. It was found there was upon the Sabbath catechising, public reading of the word, preaching before noone, na exercise aifter noone by reason of the minister's aidge and infirmities,

Session for the aines in the fifein dayes. Ouklie collections for the puirill and distribution thair of quarterly. Na papists nor excommunicate or noncommunicate.

The minister being tryit was weill reportit of by universal consent of the word of all as faithful and diligent in doctrein, and discipline, honest in lyff and conversation.

The minister lykewayes reportit weill of the elders and deacons.

The session buik delivered to Mr Abraham Sibbald to be visited but specially to try the process led against Adam Chrystie and to report the next day.

1610, August 30—Mr Abraham reportit the censure of the buik of Aberdour which was that things for the maist part were formall therein except nine lynes in process sceipt out and the evill covered. The former was deemed ane great elest (offence) and the minister ordenit to see in tyme coming that the lyke informality and lest be not found and that as to the other their buick of discipline should be well covered and honestly handit.

The presbytery record is blank from March 1611 to November 1612. David Howeson died in 1611.

1613 June 17.—VISITATION

Compearit Alexander Ramsay, reidar of the Kirk of Aberdour with the maist part of the eldership wha being demandit anent the exercises of religion among them afirmit that Mr John Howieson, minister at Tyrie, did preach unto them every other Sabboth and hold their session every fifteen days, and in his absence they had public prayer and catechising and reading of the word.

The buik of discipline was delivered to Mr William Daidson to be visitit. The said day the eldership complainit upon the great desolation and disorder among them lack of ane resident pastour wherefore the Presbyterie exhortet them to direct their commisioner to the Bishop at next Synod for plantin their kirk with ane qualified pastour.

1613 October 28th.—At Crimond. The said day Patrick Walker, ane servand to the Laird of Pitsligo servit at the kirkdoor ane edict in name of Peter, Bishop of Aberdeen, charging the Presbytery to compear in Aberdeen the 2nd day of November to object against Mr George Clark his admission to the ministry of Aberdour with certification if they compear nocht they shall not be heard hereafter.

Wherewith the brethern being advysit and considering the novelty of the form that ane unknown man neither kenned by the people nor allowed by the presbyterie, ...that ministry should be obtrudit forcibly and in ...

either to the charge of God's people or to the fellowship of the presbyterie, contrar to the ... form of the admission of ministers, whilk as it was approuen by the word of God so it is yet observed in the hail bounds of the Synodall, wherefore the brethern give commission to their brother Mr Davd Robertson and to keep the said day and deal with the said P. bishop and the Presbyterie of Aberdeen and earnestly request them in the name of God and the brethern of the presbytery that the entrée of the said Maister George shall be formal according the ***** that is to say that tyme may be grantit baith to the people and presbterie to hear the said Maister George Clark at hame, within the country, that after hearing and lawful tryell of his knowledge and guid instruction they may say Yea or Na to his admission as they shall see ability in ability in the said Maister George to the ministry of Aberdour.

The which giff P. Bishop and presbyterie of Aberdeen shall refuse they giff permission to the said brother to testifie in their name that in ane voice that they dissent from the admission of the said Mr George to the ministry of Aberdour and to report fra the presbyterie of Aberdeen of his fidelitie in discharging his commission.

The said day in respect the edict servit by Peter Walker, servant, to the Laird of Pitsligo concerning Mr George Clark's admission to the ministry of Aberdour was jointly and ane wat directit to the parochiners of Aberdour to answer in lyke manner at the same day, the presbyterie considering that they were baith as sheep without a shepherd for the present having no man to inform them of their duty and that also this thing chiefly respectit them and in truth apperteinit to them, presently directit their brother Mr Thomas Rires upon the next Sabbath come aught days to pass to the said kirk and there efter doctrein to advertise that people in the name of God from the presbterby as havcing care of them as ane flock within their bounds, that they fail not in a point of duty so necessarily concerning themselves, neither blame the presbyterie hereafter as slothful of their weill in not advertising, but that they might hail commissioners not from ane part but from the hail to tell their requests to sick as has that thing in hand.

1613 Nov.2—The Presbytery haldin at Aberdeen with dyvers other brethern of the presbyteries. The said day comperit Mr David Robertson, commissioner from the presbyterie of Dier and pressed that neither Maister George Clark nor any other whosoever presented to the kirk of Aberdour should receive ony admission to the said kirk of Aberdour except that he was first tryit in his literature and lyff by the said presbytery of Dier.

The Bishop efter advyement ordenit the said Maister George Clark to pass to the said Presbyterie of Deer and there be heard and tryit by them, and by them be directit to the paroch of Aberdour and report to the bishop and his assessors how the said presbyterie and paroch lykis of him.

[Signed] P. Bishop of Aberdeen.

1613 Nov. 28th —Mr Thomas Rires reportit that he had obeyit the ordinance of the Presbyterie in ganging to Aberdour in discharge of his duty there.

Mr David Robertson reportit that his diligence in discharging his commission before the presbterie of Aberdeen, as said is.

Comperit the Laird of Pitsligo, patron of the kirk of Aberdour as he allegit, showing how that he being cairful of the planting of the said kirk with ane qualified pastour had presented Mr George Clark to be tryit baith befor the Bishop of Aberdeen and his assessors before the Presbyterie of Dier, and in respect that they have baith at great length heard and tryit him craved the said presbyterie's consent to his admission to the ministry of the kirk of Aberdour.

Wherefore the presbyterie for weightie causes moving them and also in respect of the Bishop of Aberdeen and his assessors' former ordinance concludit that they will obey the said ordinance in all points, and to that effect ordainit Mr George Clark to compear himself to mak the addition the next day of the exercise upon the ordinar text and after they had heard him and tryit him to direct him to the said kirk that the people might also hear him and give their consent to his admission.

1613 Dec 2nd.—At Crymond. The said day Mr John Howeson maid the exercise upon the ordinar text and Mr George Clark addit as was appointit unto him. The doctrein was censurit and the first speaker allowit but in the second speaker his doctrein there was found three or four grosse errors in the fundamental grounds, upon the consideration whereof the presbyterie being of mind of befor to have sent him unto the kirk of Aberdour to be heard of that people the Sabboth day next, after the addition continues that direction will be heard again before the Presbyterie, and so Maister George Clark is ordained to add upon the ordinar text.

The said George Keith in Pittendrum as a Commissioner gave in ane application with one Act fra the session of Aberdour anent the provyding of that kirkwith ane sattilt minister, also lykewayes Robert Fraser of Durris gave in ane other application in the name of others of the parochiners of Aberdour anent the provision of the said kirk.

1613 Dec. 16—Mr George Clark does not compear to mak the exercise as appointed. Letters sent from the moderator and Maister George Clark excusing their absence, consideration whereof is deferred till they be present.

Compearit Andrew Fraser of Tyrie, Maister William Whyte in Ardlawhill and John Forbes of Petnacaddell desiring answer of the former applications, whilk could not be grantit upon the considerations and reasons forsaid.

1614 January 13.—The business continued owing to the absence of Pitsligo and Maister George Clark.

George Clark, A.M. graduated at King's College, Aberdeen 1611, presented to the Church of Aberdour by Sir John Forbes of Pitsligo and entered 20th February 1614. He died 18th August 1644 aged about 53 years in the 31st year of his ministry. He married Jane Ogstone. (Tombstone in Churchyard.)

1614 April 21.—William Murison servant to the guidman of Achmedden was delait to the presbyterie for his public reviling against the ministerie and the word of God professed in the realm, affirming them to be the Devill's servants and the truth preacht by them to be the Devill's religion. It is ordenit that he be chargit with ane written summons by the minister of Aberdour to compear before the presbyterie at Rathine the next ordinar day of their meeting as lykewayes the witness underwrit: the guidman of Auchmedden, his maister, James Henderson, Thomas Scott in Achmedden and David Nicolson, boy to the guidman.

1614 June 2nd—The witnesses, except Nicolson, compear and by their evidence clear Murison of the charge brought against him. Nicolson to be summoned again.

1614 June 23rd—Visitation. The said day the Brethern of the presbytery and haill eldership of the parish of Aberdour being convenit for the visitation and tryell of the estait of that kirk, it was found that upon the Sabbath day there was reading, catechising and preaching of the word befor noone, no exercise afternoon, because of the minister his not residing at the kirk, seeing he had as nocht as yet gotten entres of his mansion, and because of the far scattering of the paroch fra the the Kirk. The communion ministrat. Na excommunicant persons in the paroch. Many noch communicants some for ignorance some for disobedience with whom he is ordenit to travell according to the discipline of the kirk.

The session meets every other Tuesday for exercise of discipline. There is ane treasurer. It is ordenit that collections for the pair be at the kirk door.

Na schuill for the instruction of the youth whereof they are ordenit to have ane cair, unto the whilk the maist pairt of them agree

The minister being removit and the eldership posit concerning their pastour concerning his doctrein, faithfulness, diligence and honestie of his lyff amongst them faithfulness and diligence in his calling is ordenit to tak him to ane ordinar text of Scripture which shall be thocht meitest by advyce of his session. The session buik delivevrit Mr John Howeson to be sichtit him.

The said day it is condscendit and agreed upon by the presbyterie and haill eldership and parochiners their present that the former Act anent the doontaking of the middle wall be put in execution and that it may be done the mair commodiously Mr Abraham Sibbald and Mr Charles Ferm are ordenit to travell with the Laids of Philorth and Durris for obtaining of their consent.

The said day it is condscendit and agreed upon by the haill eldership and parochiners thair present for the tyme that they will giff to ane maister of schuil according to the commond act Act, giff so be that the man content them. The minister of Aberdour reportit that as yet they could get no tryell of David Nicolson his dwelling. It is ordenit that he yet continue in tryell.

1614 September 22nd.—According to the former ordinance made at the visitation of the kirk of Aberdour, seeing now the young Laird of Philorth was come hame, Mr Charles Ferm and with him Mr Thomas Rires, in place of Mr Abraham Sibbald, are ordenit to travell with the said young Laird of Philorth, for obtaining of his consent to the doontaking of the middle wall of the said kirk of Aberdour, being ane great impediment to the hearing of the word and castin waist almaist the half of the kirk in tyme of preaching, seeing he was ane of the inheritours of the paroch.

1614 October 6th—Mr Charles Ferm and Mr Thomas Rires, commissioners directit by the presbytery to the young Laird of Philorth for craving of his consent to the doontaking of the middle wall of the kirk of Aberdour, reportit that, according to their commission, they had dealt with him and schawed him at length the necessity of that wark, needful for the better containing of the parochiners which could not be stowed within the body of the kirk and commodious for the hearing of the word

throughout the haill kirk while as now there was no hearing but in the bodie of the kirk, upon the which consideration the inheritours of the paroch last present at the visitation of that kirk with advyce and consent of the Presbytery, likeas dyvers tymes off befor had willingly condescendit and agreeit that the wall should be taen doon and repairit anew to the commoditie of the kirk and profit of the haill parochiners and that upon their own charges, so that now there was na stop or impediment in that work except the want of his ane consent and concurrence wha as ane inheritour of the paroch should forder that wark.

Wha answerit that for himself he saw nocht the necessitie of the doontaking of that wall neither could he think it guid to alter the kirk, yet seeing the rest of the inheitours of the parish and parochiners perhaps saw forder than he did and had condescendit that that wall should be taen doon he should be no hinderer to that work but shou'd aquiesce to the judgement of others, always protesting giff that wark succedit nocht to their intent he should be blameless.

The brethering considering the young Laird his answer, ordains Mr George Clark, Minister of Aberdour, to gang forward, advyse with session and parochiners the maifest of them, so the wark sall be done, sett doon ane tax roull and agree with workmen that it may be perfytit with all possible diligence as was agreed upon at Aberdour.

1614 November 17th—In accordance with the Act of Assembly anent payment of manses erected by his successors, Mr George Clark pays to Mr John Howesoun, son of Mr David Howesoun, four scoir eleven pounds and ten schillings money, Mr George Clark's exexutors or assignes to seek repayment of the said sum at the hands of the next intrant minister at Aberdour.

1615 April 13th—The said day the brethering considering the complaint given in by the Laird of Esslemont against Mr George Clark, minister at Aberdour, for displacing him of his wontit privilege as he allegit and for refusal of the elements whilk he at Maister George his awn command had preparit and taking of the same from the Laird of Pitsligo, as lykewayes the great misorder whilk they heard to have been in the kirk of Aberdour through the contention of the twa lairds and their mutual taking of instruments the very tyme when the holy Sacrament should have been reverently ministrat, to the great offence of the ministry, ordenis Maister George Clark to desist from ministration of the Sacrament the next Sabbath intimating to the people the cause thereof and that he would nocht receive the elements from either of them but furnish the same

himself unto the tyme it were clearit by the laws of the country wha had the right.

1615 June 8—Visitation.—The haill brethern of the presbyterie being convenit for visitation and tryell of the estait of the kirk of Aberdour ****[illegible] that every Sabboth in the morning they had catechising and public reading by the common reidar, preaching of the word eftir reading, na exercise efternoon through the minister his non-residence whilk he was labouring to amend shortly.

The ordinar text whereupon the minister taught was Exodus 11. Cap. The communion ministrat, na recusants. The session meets every other fifteen days.

Collection at the kirk door, distribution thereof by the advice of the eldership for relief of the poor

The kirk is found well repairit and the middle wall taen doon. The kirkyard dyke as yet nocht biggit. It is ordenit that the paroch be taxed and that it be builded again the next year. The minister being removit and the eldership being demandit concerning their minister his doctrein, cair of discipline, behaviour, honesty of lyff and conversation amongst them, all in ane voice gave ane guid testimony of him, as lykewayes the minister reportit weill of his eldership in fordering and assisting the wark of God.

It was complenit by some specially the Lady, and appeirand Laird of Esslemont her son, that they could not get the pastour movit to receive his ordinar teind silver and that the acquittances whilk he offered unto them were changit by the ordinar form of acquittances containing dyverse things whilk are not usual in acquittances. The minister is ordenit to, put himself in possession of his stipend upon his presentation that he mak residence at the kirk.

He is exhorit to be at peace with his flock, to do duty to every one of them, that he be aware of partiality and that he give his acquittance according to the customable form of the country. The session buik deliverit to Mr William Davidson to be scihtit.

1616 February 15—The presbyterie being certainly informit that Mr Alexander Leslie, ex-communicate papist, was kept and mainteinit within the paroch of Aberdour by the guidman of Auchmedden and Brandon Baird his son, Maister George Clark, their ordinar pastour, is ordenit to the said persons remove the said Mr Alexander Leslie ou the paroch or at

the least their bounds and company or else to enter in process against them according to the discipline of the kirk.

1616 March 28—Mr George Clark reported that he had visited Mr Alexander Lesly excommunicate. The Presbytery ordains that Mr George his report should be made to the Synod that their advice may be had what shall be done with the resettlers of him.

Referres from Synod: No 8—Concerning Maister Alexander Leslie. Excommunicate papist within the bounds of the paroch of Aberdour because he is presently lying bedfast in the house of Brandon Baird in Pennan ordeined the minister to try exactly giff he has contravened the bond given to the bishop and to process sic as resaittis (?).

1616 April 25th—The said day it was reportit by Mr George Clark that Mr Alexander Leslie, excommunicate Papist was departit this lyfe and transportit by his friends to the kirk of Banff there to be burrit.

1616 May 30th—There is liberty grantit to Mr George Clark to gang south for sattling of his provision and getting entrance to his benefice.

1616 August 29th—Visitation—The brethering of the presbyterie being convenit for visitation of the kirk and tryell of the estait of that congregation finds ane established session, the eldership thereof present except a few wha were either sick or out of the country. The Lord his Sabbath spent in reidan and cateschising by the common reidar before sermon, preaching baith befor noone and afternoon in summer but anes in winter, the harmony of the Evangell.

Meeting of Session before for exercise of discipline anes in the fourteen days upon Tuesday—na schuill for the instruction of the youth. The communion ministrat, nane excommunicate within the paroch. The edifice of the church weill repairit.

The minister being removit and the eldership tryit concerning his behaviour among them all in ane voice gave an honest testimonie of him baith of his doctrein, care of discipline and honesty in conversation amongst them except a few wha did complain specially for not receiving their teind silver whose complaints were heard.

The minister being callit in and exhortit to daily growth and perseverance reportit Weill of the of the forebearance and assistance he had by his eldership.

The session Buick delivered to Mr William Chain to be sichtit by him and to report the next day. The brethering, considering the particular complaints given in against Maister George Clark and hearing his answers thereunto ratified the former Act whilk was made the last year anent the same matter.

1616 December 5th—Compearit Alexander Fraser, appeirand of Philorth and in the presence of the brethren made offer to Maister George Clark minister of Aberdour of submission to the brethren of the presbyterie (giff Mr George Clark accept the same) concerning baith bygane duties since Mr George his eutrie and for time coming, for provision of the kirk at Aberdour for his awn pairt, adding also that as he thocht others within the paroch wha otherwayes followit him wald follow him in that, unto the which Mr George cravit a twentie days to give answer for advysing with friends in that matter, wherewith the Laird albeit he would rather have had the present submission was content upon conditions that Maister George said suffer all pursuit of law to sleipe until that day whereunto Maister George agreeit upon condition that letters of advocation suld nocht be raisit against him befor that day.

1616 December 26th—Compearit the Laird of Philorth younger craving ane answer of Maister George Clark giff (according to his former suit) he would submit the matter of debait betwixt them anent the provision of the kirk of Aberdour baith for time to come and satisfaction for byganes since his cnuie, for the Laird his ane pairt to the brethering of the presbyterie seein this was the day appointed to give his resolute answer.

Whereunto Mr George answers he would noch submit for the present, first, in respect the Laird would give no declaration what richt he had to his teinds; secondly because he would not renounce sik title and right he had to the manse and gleib of Aberdour. Replyit by the Laird that submission being passit between him he wald put his richt he had to the teinds unto the "friends" hands; to the second answerit by the Laird that what richt he had to the manse he wald submit to the same friends and do by their advice what reason and conscience would.

1617 January 16—The brethering of the presbterie considering the suit of Maister George Clark after advysement ordenis Mr Abraham Sibbald to design *de novo* the gleib of Aberdour in favor of Mr George Clark now present minister there and that whensoever he sall be advysit by Maister George to do the same.

1617 June 26—Visitation—The said brethering of the presbyterie togedder with the eldership and others dyverse gentillmen of the paroch of Aberdour being convenit for visiting of the estait of the kirk of Aberdour. Efter tryell is is found that the Sabboth was spent in teiching baith befor noone and efternoon, text, the harmonie of the Evangell, Matthew 111. Luke 111. Reading befor preaching.

Collection for the puir Sabbothlie at the kirk door, distribution thereof quarterly.

The session meets anes in fourteen days upon Twysdat for exercise of discipline.

Ane schuill for training up of the youth. The communion ministrat, na non-communicants for religion, except Barbara Semphill, spouse to George Chalmer.

Commissioners and constables chosen for ordour taking with the ordinar pair of the paroch. And expelling of vagabonds according to his Majesty's proclomations and charge whas names are set down in their awn books. The session book delivered to Mr Abraham Sibbald, to be sichtit by him and report the next day.

The minister being removit and the eldership with the parochiners there present being solemnly posit concerning their minister, Maister George Clark his pastoral behaviour amongst them, all in ane voice gave ane honest testimonie of his painfulness in doctrine, honestie in his lyfe and conversation and diligence in discipline, as lykewayes the minister reportit weill of the forderance he had of the eldership. The brethering, considering the woful outlying of Barbara Semphill and her nocht communicating orders Maister George Clark to enter in process against her and charge her to compear next day.

The brethering, as was enjoyoinit unto them unto them by the refer of the Sub Synod haldon in Aberdeen the tenth day of this instant June, considering the eateistes [?flences] betwixt Maister George and his parochiners and means for sattlin of them, efter lang conference and advyement baith with the inheritours of the paroch and Maister George receivit this answer in general of the haill inheritours of the paroch wha war all present for the maist part, that they would contribute for to mak ane competent provision for the maintenance of their pastour as the kirk should think expedient and in particular receivit this offer of the guid man of Achmedden, the Lady Esslemont, James Fraser of Cairness and Maister William Whyte that they were willing to mak up to Maister George and others his successors the sum of seven hundred marks yearly of teind silver by his vicarage, the rest of the inheritours of the paroch

contributing with them *pro rato*, and, giff this offer awa part to augment the same by advyce of friends.

1617 August 21st—Barbara Semphill, recussant, spouse to George Chalmer in Cuburtie, summoned to next day.

Compearit James Fraser of Cairness for himself and in name and behalf of the young Laird of Philorth, the Lady Esslemont, the guidman of Achmedden, inheritours and tacksmen within the paroch of Aberdour, craving ane answer of the offer made by them for ane sufficient stipend for Maister George Clark of the visitation of the said kirk. It was answerit by Maister George that in respect that matter was referrit to the Synod and the Presbyterie had no forder commission but to hear and report the offer of the parochiners he could giff no answer befor the next meeting of the Synod promising in the meantime giff they did duty by the advice of the Synod they should be free of all danger and perill of law at his hand.

1617 Nov. 6th—Barbara Semphill not having compeared Mr George Clark to proceed against her with first public admonition.

Nov. 20—Mr George Clark ordered to proceed with the public admonition of Barbara Semphill.

Dec. 2nd—Barbara Semphill has got third admonition.

Dec. 25—Mr George Clark reports that he had passed the first and second public prayers against Barbara Semphill and is ordenit to proceed.

1618 January 22—Mr George Clark reportit that he had ended the process against Barbara Semphill and is ordenit to send twa elders to her for her last advertisement.

Feb. 19—Mr George Clark is ordenit to produce the process led against Barbara Semphill.

April 2nd—the process led against Barbara Semphill being productit it is deliverit to Mr Abraham Sibbald to be sichtit by him.

1619 July I—Visitation—The brethering of the Presbyterie together with the elders of the paroch being convenit for tryell of the estait of that congregation and progress of the gospel among them, it is found that the Sabbath was observit with preaching before noone, text—Harmonie, Matthew V. 1. 2, efternoones Sabbathlie teaching the catechis and catechising of the people, collections at the kirk door, distribution

quarterly, the session anes in the fourteen dayes, the communion ministrat.

George Chalmer his wyff and the guidwyfe of Achmedden had nocht communicat, the causes for to be tryit.

Na reidar or schuillmaister, the sessionare ordenit to have a cair that it be mendit.

The minister being removit and the session solemnly posit concerning their pastor his behaviour among them, all in ane voice gave ane honest testimonie of his doctrine, diligence, care of discipline and honestie in lyff and conversation.

As lykewayes the minister being callit in and exhortit to perseverance and continuance reportit weill of the foderance and assistance he had of the eldership, only they are exhortit to mak greater conscience of their keeping the public meetings of the session, as lykewayes they are ordenit to have ane greater care of the puir and that their be one common man appointit for outhandling of strang beggars.

The session buik deliverit to Mr William Davidson to sichtit by him and report the next day.

1620 July 13—The brethern of the presbyterie being convenit together with the eldership and other inhabitants of the paroch of Aberdour for visitaion of the estait finds ane established session among them whas names being publicly read themselves were found present except a few whas absence was excusit.

The Sabboth observit as follows, preaching befor noone, text Matthew V. afternoon catechising and catechetical doctrine by the minister himself.

No reidar or schuillmaister, collections for the poor at the kirk door. The session meets anes in the fourteen days for the exercise of discipline. Ordour taken with their own puir and tokens given unto them, a man appoyntit for outhalding vagabonds and strang beggars. The communion ministrat, --recusant's—George Chalmers in Cowburtie and his wyff, the elder guidwife of Achmedden, Brandan Baird, her son, George Mowatt in Fettendrum and his wyff. What order shall be taken with these the presbyterie continues until further advyement.

The edifice of the kirk weill repairit. The minister being removit, and the eldership and others gentlemen their present solemnly posit concerning Mr George Clark, the minister, his pastoral carriage amongst them, all in ane voice gave ane honest report by that they were edified by his doctrine, confirmit by his guid example, that he was painful in taking

ordour with anormities and careful in visiting the sick, that in their session was nothing done partially.

The minister being callit in and exhortit to go forward for the fuller indoeing of Gods work among this people, reportit weill of the foderance and assistance he had of his eldership.

The session buik delyverit to Mr William Davidson to be sichtit by him. The eldership are exhortit to have ane cair for to provide ane reidar and schuillmaister amongst them for teaching and training up of their bairnes as was in all other kirks of the presbyterie. The same day is ordenit to keep the session, being ane ordinar of old. The outlyers from the church, especially Pettindrum and Pitullie are ordenit to be processt. It is ordenit the Laird of Pettindrum his dask be sett in ane commodious pairt of the kirk by advyse of the session that he have no plaint to complain.

c.1645—NATHANIAL MARTIN—There was a declaration of the General Assembly concerning an Act of the Syndod regarding him, 18th June 1646 and the same day they recommended his gettiing certain vacant stipends. He was a member of the communion of Assembly 1648 and was translated to Peterhead 20th December 1619 where, according to the presbytery records, he was admitted 12th May 1650.

1649—Mr Nathaniel Martin declared that he had sett some taks of teinds which he had found sett by his predecessor viz. The great teinds of the lands within the parochin of Aberdour, belonging to the Lords Pitsligo and Fraser and the Laird of Achmedden, of the which sett he desired ane rarification.

The Presbyterie finding instructed that he had bettered the stipend by that sett and had made the provision of that kirk competent, in so far as concerns the said presbytery competent, in so far as concerns the said presbytery does ratify by their assents the said taks, according to desire.

1650—Ruling elder for the half-year—James Baird of Achmedden.

1650 July 2nd—Mr John Jamieson, minister of Tyrie, ordained to declare the kirk of Aberdour vacant the next Lords day and to exhort the congregation to use diligence in filling the place.

1650 August 8th—The presbytery appoints Mr William Ramsay to go to Aberdour and keep the fast appointed by the General Assembly occasioned by the present invasion of this kingdom by sectaries the Lord's day come aght days (which is also recommended to the several brethern) and Mr Nathaniel Martin is appointed to preach at Aberdour the

Lord's day thereafter and exhort the congregation to go about the nomination of a fit man to be their minister with all diligence.

August—Mr Nathaniel Martin reports that he had gone to Aberdour according to the former days ordinance and having taught after sermon exhorted the parochiners speedily to fall upon the nominating of a minister to that place and desired the session to convene and the congregation to stay for that purpose.

The session being met therein, the said Mr Nathaniel did moderate, the whole elders unanimously did desire Mr William Ramsay to be sent again to be heard by that congregation from which they declared themselves have received good satisfaction already, and that all desired that the presbytery would interpose themselves with the presbytery of Mairnes for obtaining them a hearing of Mr William Chalmer now minister at Marykirk in the Mairnes.

The which two they did declare without a contrarie voice to be their perfect list and that they shall, God willing, with all convenience nominate one of these for their minister, as the Act of the Session of Aberdour now produced by the said Mr Nathaniel Martin bears. All which the presbytery taking to consideration do appoint Mr Ramsay to go to Aberdour the next Lord's day and Mr Robert Keith to write to the presbytery of Mairnes for obtaining the said congregation of Aberdour a hearing of the said Mr William Chalmer.

1650 September 2.nd—Anent the matter of Aberdour Mr Nathaniel Martin reported that upon an earnest letter sent to him from the session of Aberdour desiring that he would come hither the last Lord's day and moderate their session, he had been there, and that the session being convened, after incalling the name of God, they falling upon the plantation of their kirk, did unanimously desire and nominate Mr William Ramsay to be their minister and resolved to prosecute the motion of Mr William Chalmer no more, it being reported by one of the inheritor (who had written to the said Mr William and sent him a copy of the previous day's act.

That it would be a matter of great difficulty to procure so much as a hearing of the said Mr William in their congregation much more to obtain him to be their minister, which the whole session did perceive by Mr William Chalmer his letter then produced to the session.

Whereupon the session did subscribe a supplication, all of them (except George Adamson, who is absent, and other three or four who continued

their subscriptions until their master's consent should be had to the matter, he being now out of the country) although they had subscribed the former days Act declaring that they would choose one of the foresaid two men to be their minister and choised Mr William Hebron and other elders to present the foresaid application unto the presbytery this day desiring the brethern to enter Mr William Ramsay to his trialls, and that being found by them to be qualified would admit him to the charge of the ministry in that congregation, and withal appointed the said Mr Hebron their commissioner (who is to be assisted by their late minister Mr Nathaniel Martin at the desire of the session) to speak to my Lords Pitsligo and Fraser (who are now reported to be come to the country and to desire the consent and concurrence of the of the foresaid noblemen in that matter.

All which being intimat to the congregation the congregation then present (by advertisement given to them by the said Mr Nathaniel Martin yesterday) they did heartily approve the motion as an Act of the Session of Aberdour (appointing Mr Nathaniel Martin to be written for to moderate their session the subscribed supplication and submission to Mr William Hebron by the session of Aberdour for the affect foresaid (which are to be presently produced) do respectively declare.

All which being now produced by the foresaid comissioner and it being by him declared that he had gone to Pitsligo (being assisted by Mr Nathaniel Martin) intending to desire the consent of the said noble Lord to the present purpose but had found he was not yet come to the country, so also to Cainbulg (assisted as foresaid) and had spoken to my Lord Fraser in the aforesaid purpose, desiring his consent thereto, whose answer was he would neither supplicate for the said Mr William nor oppose him in respect he was unknown to him.

The presbytery taking the whole premises into their consideration, and in particular the endeavours used by the session of Aberdour to procure the consent the foresaid noblemen do not think it fit that Mr Wm Ramsay shoul be keeped of his tryells (and so the kirk be made to vacand for a long time till the said noblemen should come in the country) and therefore appoints Mr William Ramsay aforesaid to handle the text "2nd John, V. 7. 8." In a scholastic way the next day as the first point of his tryells in relation to the ministry of Aberdour.

1650 Oct. 31st—At Crimond.—Mr William Ramsay having delivered his controversie, sustained his tryells and given his questionairie tryell and all things according to the Act of the General Assembly (after

incalling the name of God) is approven in all and declared fitt and able to exercise the function of the ministrie in the parochin of Aberdour.

Yet the Presbytery, considering That the consents of my Lord Pitsligo, late patron of the said church and Lord Fraser, both principal inheritors of the said parochin were yet wanting to the said Mr William his admission to that charge did therefore resolve to continue to give order for serving the edict or doing anything more in that matter until the consents of the said noble Lords be sought and obtained, that so the young man being in the said charge may be the more peaceable and comfortable for that effect the Presbytery appoints Mrs Duncan Forbes (minister of Pitsligo) and Nathaniel Martin to deal for the foresaid consists either of word or letter as they shall find occasion and to report their answer.

1650—November 21 Mrs Duncan Forbes and Nathaniel Martin report that they have not yet found occasion to speak with or write my Lords Pitsligo and Fraser but had hopes shortly to do so and were confident to obtain their consents, wherefore the presbytery appoints Mr John Jamieson upon the Lord's day come aght days, to cause serve an edict at the Kirk of Aberdour to summon the parochiners thereof to compear the next Presbytery day and object what they had to say against the admission of Mr Ramsay why he might not be their minister.

1650—Mrs Duncan Forbes and Nathaniel Martin reported that they had met with my Lord Pitsligo and written to my Lord Fraser who both have given their consents to Mr William Ramsay his admission to the charge of the ministry at Aberdour. The which the Presbytery caused call the edict (which had been lawfully served at the kirk of Aberdour by Mr John Jamieson as was appointed) and finding that none did compear out of the said parochin to object against the foresaid admission but on the contrary they had sent Mr William Whyte in Ardlayhil, their commisioner, desiring that the said Mr William might be admitted to the charge of the ministry then with all diligence.

Upon all which informations the presbytery appoints their next meeting to be at Aberdour the 2nd of January 1651 for the said effect and ordains Mr John Robertson, present moderator, to have a sermon for that purpose the said and to do the action with the concurrence of the rest of the brethern.

The which is to be intimated to the congregation of Aberdour by Mr John Jamieson the next Lord's day immediately preceding the next Presbytery.

Ruling Elder—Mr William Ogstoune

1651 January 2—After incalling the name of God Maister William Ramsay is found admitted according to the ordinance. Mr John Robertson who preached at the admission is approven.

Ruling Elder James Baird of Aucmedden

1651—WILLIAM RAMSAY A.M. graduated at St Andrews 1644, admitted 2nd January 1651, joined the protesters the same year and was deprived by the Acts of Parliament 11th June and 1st October 1662. He died 31 Decr 1690.

1651 August 13th Visitation.—After incalling of the name of God the names of the elders are called and all found present. The minister being posit according to the platform used at visitations gave a satisfactory answer to all the queries, only he declares he had not yet made search if there was any land within his parochin dedicated to the devil in respect that he is but lately entered to that charge, but he promised to do it with all conveniency.

The minister being removed elders verbally posed him concerning him to give an honest testimony. The minister being posed concerning his elders and each of them of ane other nothing is found censurable in any one of them only that they may be gravely exhorted to make conscience of their callings and carriage.

The brethern appointed visiting their session books report that that they had found much faithfulness and diligence in the exercise of discipline amongst them.

Maister William Davidson having taught on 1Thess 2.3.4. is found to have delivered orthodox doctrine, but is gravely exhorted to study a more spiritual way of application to consciences and times.

Ruling Elder William Whyte. Thereafter Master Wm. Hebron.

1654 March 7—Maister William Ramsay having satisfied Mr Nathaniel Martin in the sum of **** makes for the ministers mansion at Aberdour, desires the same to be marked in the Presbytery's book *ad futuram rei memoriam*.

Ruling Elder—Mr William Ogston

1654 March 7—VISITATION.—After incalling the name of God the visitation found intimated. Elders all found present except one who was sick. The minister being posed according to the platform for visitations answered satisfactorily in everything. The elders being severally and solemnly posed anent the minister gave him ane honest testimony of ane able, faithfull and painfull ministry in all the parts of his conversation and calling..

The minister gives his elders a good testimony and he desires they may be exhorted to assist him cordially in purging communions, pressing family duties and being exemplary in that and other things themselves, as also that they would take more notice of common swearing, rebuking and dealing more ordinarily with it than they do which exhortation is accordingly given by the Moderator.

The session book is to be delivered to Maister Duncan and Arthur Forbes is to be visited.

The minister and session ask the presbytery's advice anent two people viz. George McGriger and George Cowie, who for trying out of some goods they alleged was stolen from them were convicted before the session to have used that piece of devilry which they commonly call "turning the siefe and the sheare" upon which they had been misled to the misjudging one who was found innocent.

The sheep (for which they took the wicked way of enquiry") having only strayed and being now found again. And further it is declared that this further practice was taught and practised by Mr George McGrigor with consent from, connivance and in the presence of this George Cowie and John Mackie who was now dead and on his deathbed had with some appearance of remorse and conviction revealed the matter, and that this McGrigor being a highlandman, for the present looked not upon it as a sin, because he had seen it ordinarily practised in the place where he was born, as he affirmed.

The Presbytery, both because of the atrocity of the fact (which when the presbytery considers and hears the nature of it reported they cannot look upon but as devilry and flowing from ane impact (at least) if not ane express covenant with the devil) and also for curbing and repressing such wickedness that it breaks not out in others, thinks it fitting and appoints that the said George McGrigor and George Cowie be excommunicated unless it should be found that they were swallowed up for the same.

Gilbert Daniel also to be excommunicated for swearing and using the blasphemous expression.... Mr William Ramsay reports he thought he found some good beginnings of sense and sorrow in George McGrigor and George Cowie and for entertaining that, had forborne the sentence of excommunication till he should try to what these beginnings might grow. Gilbert Daniel craves proof of the allegations made against him which is allowed and, witnesses having compeared and deponed next day, the lybell is proved and he is ordered to be excommunicated.

(Later). Mr William Ramsay reports that for aught he can perceive George McGrigor and George Cowie are really weighted with a sense of their guyilt and therefore he had forborne to pronounce the sentence of excommunication against them. The presbytery refer that matter to the session of Aberdour to do therein as they shall think most fitting and as they will be answerable. The excommunication of Gilbert Daniel is delayed.

1655 October 10th—VISITATION.—After incalling the name of God the visitation found intimated. Elders present. The minister according to the platform of enquiries for visitation answered satisfactorily. The session book is appointed to be visited by Mr Duncan Forbes and Mr Jamieson who are to report the next day.

The minister being removed and the elders present posed concerning him, all gave him an ample testimony of fidelity, painfulness and ability in his calling (which testimony he received also from the rest of the neighbouring ministers) only the Laird of Auchmedden John Forbes of Pitmacadell and Andrew Baird (who is under process) complain that processes in the Session book are informally carried on viz., the process against William Ross, William Davidson, William Scott, Gilbert Daniel, the said Andrew Baird and Mr Alexander Ross.

Also Auchmedden allegeth that the minister appearsparticularly and peremptorily, but this being immediately put to enquiry and particulars demanded he could not instruct relevantly to the satisfaction of the Presbytery wherefore the minister is absolved from the last challenge. And as to the first challenge of the book that is referred to the report of the visitors of the book who are desired to take special notice of these mentioned processes and report. The minister being called and enquired anent his elders he declared that Auchmedden and Pitmacadell have deserted his session.

The visitors appointed for the Session book report that by reason of some avocations they had not as yet had convenience to visit it. It is overtured that some from the Presbytery may be appointed to confer with Auchmedden and others anent the processes alleged informal in the said book.

And to hear the minister of Aberdour and Auchmedden with other complainers face to face that so these matters may be expounded for the Presbytery. The overture approved and passed as an Act and Mrs Nathaniel Martin, Arthur Mitchell and Robert Keith with the visitors of the book foresaid appointed to meet for that effect at Aberdour at such time as they might agree upon among themselves and to report to the next Presbyterial meeting.

In the meantime the process against Andrew Baird and Mr Alexander Ross are appointed to cist till the result of the said committie and the Presbytery's further judgement thereupon.

(Later) It's reported that the committee appointed for the business of Aberdour had kept meeting there and that after several debates they had brought the parties concerned to agree to the particulars after following viz., that Andrew Baird and Mr Alexander Ross being convinced of the inconsiderate rashness in their appealing, the one to the in orderly association at Lonmay, the other protesting to the Provincial Assembly, would be intent to acknowledge publicly these their offences before that congregation, and that they had by an Act subscribed with their hands passed for their said pretended application.

All which Mr Alexander Ross appearing did homologate. The Presbytery approved the commission and ratified their actings and appoints Mr Nathaniel Martin to preach at Aberdour and receive their public satisfaction

1658.—William Quhyt, ruling elder.

1665—Alexander Reynold, A.M., a native of Angus, obtained his degree at King's College, Aberdeen 1665, was a preacher in the presbytery of Arbroath, admitted 17th September 1665, deprived by Act of Parliament 25th April 1690 restoring the Presbyterian Ministers. He resided in the neighborhood but never preached again and died 9th August 1691 aged about 57. He married Margaret daughter of John Forbes of Pitnacaddell. She died 28th May 1695

1690—William Ramsay, A.M. (*supra*) restored by the Act of Parliament 25th April died 31st December same year aged about 67, in the 40th year of his ministry (see tombstone)

1694 John Whyte, formerly of Ballantrie intruded in 1694 but deposed for cursing.

1697 James Brown, A.M. translated from Kilbucho by the General Assembly, admitted 25th August 1697, died 31st July 1732, aged 70 in the 43rd year of his ministry. A son, Mr John, became minister of Longside (see tombstone.)

RECORDS OF PRESBYTERY Vol 111. 1701-1710

1701 July 29th —James Forbes of Pitmacadell and Harrie Calder, Elders.

Mr William Thain, schoolmaster

1704 Sept.—Mr George Johnstone, Scoolmaster at Aberdour, appointed Presbytery bursar.

1704 October.—this day the severall brethren having received an act of Council in favours of William Baird of Auchmedden for erecting a harbour in Penan they are to bring in their several collections the next Presbytery day.

1707 April—Upon some reports of ane act of drunkenness the presbytery delayed further proceedings in Mr Johnstone's tryells, but till further enquiry continues the burse for half a year.

May. The moderator to write to Mr Forbes, minister at Tarves, as to the reports about Mr Johnstone's drunkenness and misbehaviour.

July. The minister of Tarves asks information as to Mr Johnstone's carriage since last Synod.

1710 Mr Daniel Beaton, schoolmaster.

RECORDS OF PRESBYTERY VOL IV. 1710- 1733

1712 August 12—VISITATION—Mr Brown preached on his ordinary John XV. 16 and was approved. Mr Brown reported that he had given due warning to the parioch to be present this day to give in if they had anything to object against their minister. The heritors, elders and heads of families being called some of the heritors compeared the rest sending excuses, together with all the elders and many other heads of families and others and Mr Brown being removed they were interrogat by the moderator if they had anything to object against their minister anent his life, doctrine or ministerial conduct, anent all which they gave a very savoury report and that he was in the Lord's work among them.

After which Mr Brown was called in, and being asked if he had anything to object against the heritors or elders or other people, answered that he had nothing to object against them relative to a Presbyterian visitation. He being asked who were his elders, answered their names are William Gordon, John Weems, Patrick Thain, Patrick Henere, George Reid, William Morrice, John West, elder, John West, younger, and Patrick Simpson.

He being asked if he gave the communion here, if he had a schoolmaster and a kirk officer answered he had. Whereupon the minister and people were exhorted to their respective duties and so were dismissed.

1715—Mr Brown representing that his manse was ruinous craved that the presbytery would order something anent its reparation, whereupon the Presbytery appointed their next meeting to be at Aberdour

1st Feb. 1715 for that end when the heritors appeared and offered to repair the Manse which offer was accepted.

1718 November.—Mr Patrick Henry, schoolmaster at Aberdour is required to sign the confession of faith.

1725. July.—Mr Brown reports that the heritors of Aberdour have signed a stent of fifty pounds Scots as a salary to the schoolmaster of Aberdour. He was appointed to bring up the same to next presbytery to be considered by them.

1727 May.—*A fama clamosa* against Mr Peter Henry as carrying imprudently, if not disingenuous. Henry, as carrying imprudently if not

disengeniously the affair of the clandestine courtship and marriage betwixt Master Finlayson, Excise officer, and Ann Gordon, daughter to Alexander Gordon at Milne of Aberdour, also that he did not duly attend his school, that he too much frequented ale-houses and pennie bridals and some times uttered oaths in common discourse. A committee is appointed to meet with Mr Henry to enquire and make precognitions if needful.

August.—Mr Henry having stated his determination to leave Aberdour and give up his office was dismissed with suitable rebuke.

1728 November. —Mr Brown reports that Mr Henry has not demitted office A committee is appointed to find out the reasons and to report.

December—Mr Henry says he had never promised to leave Aberdour sooner than his own convenience. On the entreaty of Mr Brown a committee is appointed to an amicable settlement.

1729 January.—Mr Henry has now demitted office.

March—Presentation given in by William Young in Seaton of Auchmedden from several of the inheritors in favour of Mr George Middleton to be the schoolmaster. The matter is deferred till Whitsunday until which date the school is not vacant.

1731 January.—six fishermen drowned, leaving six widows and 13 children. A collection to be made for them.

1732 September.—There was then given unto the presbytery a letter signed by William Baird of Auchmedden and Mr John Whyte of Ardlayhill as heritors in the Parish of Aberdour and two elders there craving that the Presbytery would please call Mr James Turing, a preacher of the gospel, now in the bounds of the presbytery of Turriff, to preach at Aberdour and to supply the vacancie for some Sabbaths, which letter being considered for Presbytery at their next meeting and appointed Mr Farquhar to acquaint Mr Turing thereof and to write to these gentlemen signifying the same to them.

A letter was signed by Alexander Gordon, factor for Knapperine, upon the lands of Aberdour and George Leslie of Coburtie and Mr John Leslie of Ardlayhill asking that no settlement may be made until after Whitsunday so that the application might be made for vacant stipend to the widow of Mr Brown which was agreed to so far as lay with the Presbytery.

1733 February.—A petition signed by William Baird of Auchmedden, George Leslie of Coburtie and Mr John Leslie of Ardlayhill and by six other elders craving the presbytery to moderate in a call for a minister to Aberdour, and craving that Mr James Turing be one of the last submitted.

Also another petition signed also by, Mr John White of Ardlayhill and six other elders of the paroch requesting the presbytery to moderate in a call and that Mr John Brown, now minister of Longside, be one of the leet.

The presbytery grant moderation of a call and agree to put Mr James Turing on the leet, but think it needless to put Mr John Brown as he is so lately settled in Longside.

Then compear Alexander of Gordon of Old Mad, factor for Samuel Forbes of Knappernay in favour of Mr James Turing.

Also a letter from Mr Turing “which letter he called an acceptance of the said presentation.”

Also a letter from Hew Crawford, doer for the said Knappernay empowering him to lay the presentation before the presbytery.

Also intimation of his having handed presentation to the Moderator 19th February and asked him to call a meeting of the Presbytery, which the Moderator had refused to do;

1) because it was useless as the ordinary meeting was so near.

(2) because the presentation seems to be *nil* in law because the pretending Patron has not been in Britain since his Majesties accession to the throne and therefore not qualified in terms of law and presentation signed in Germany being dated at Frankfurt, also because the vacancy having occurred in July the six months in which presentation could have been made on the last day of January, also that Mr Gordon gave no instrument that he was empowered to present the presentation to the moderator, and Mr Turings letter of acceptance is no but merely an expression that he is willing to submit to the judicatories of the church—The Moderators conduct is approved and consideration of all the papers delayed till the meeting at Aberdour for moderating the call.

RECORDS OF PRESBYTERY Vol V. 1730--1737

Note at page 47--“N.B.—What is recorded concerning the settling of a minister in the parish of Aberdour is to be found on the 53rd page of this

register, because the Synod of Aberdeen did not think it proper should be inserted”

Page 53: Aberdeen, October 3 1733

The Presbytery met and constitute.

Sederent—Messrs Auchinleck, Lealy, Farquhar and Hay and the ordinary clerk.

Mr James Turing desired access and being admitted that upon the —day of September last he was ordained minister of the gospel and admitted to the pastoral charge of the parish of Aberdour by the ministers appointed by the synod of Aberdeen in April last to proceed in the settling of a gospel minister in that parish then vacant and craved that as the synod had at their present meeting received him as a member of Synod, and as the Parish of Aberdour lyes within the bounds of the prebytery of Deer, the prebytery would now receive him as a member of this presbytery and order his name to be added to the roll.

The Presbytery taking this to their consideration were convinced of the truth of the above representation and readily granted Mr Turings desire and accordingly received him as a member of this Presbytery and ordered the clerk to add his name to the roll.

The presbytery adjourned to meet at Crimond November 7th.

1731, November Presented by Samuel Forbes of Knappernay in November 1732 and ordained (by a committee of Synod) 21st September 1733 (the second settled by patronage) in the Synod after its restoration) but on the morning of 19th October after, he was found suspended in his room quite dead in the first year of his ministry his feet being only four inches from the floor.

His settlement had been violently opposed by the parishioners. Five individuals in the parish were blamed for his death, all of whom met fearful fates before five years elapsed. (Scott's *FASTI*).

1733 November 7th—It was Represented that Mr James Turing who has been settled minister of Aberdour died upon the 19th day of October last and the presbytery considering that that parish is again become vacant thought proper to order supplies for it and accordingly appointed Mr Auchinleck to preach there the next Sabbath and to intimate the vacancie at that church in the ordinary way.

ANDERSON

1733 THOMAS ANDERSON, son of Mr James Anderson, minister of Rathen, licensed by the presbytery 19th June 1733, called by the presbytery *JURE DEVOLUTO* 23rd and ordained 24th April 1734 died 16th November 1765 in his 65th year and 22nd of his ministry. He married Agnes Auchinleck who died 3rd May 1786 (see tombstone.)

1766 ANDREW YOUNGSON, A.M. OF New Deer having his degree from Kings College, Aberdeen, 11th March 1747 licensed by the Presbytery..... 20th February 1754 and ordained by the presbytery of Fordyce 6th May 1761 as missionary at Enzie. Presented to this parish Alexander Gordon though suffering from cancer in the throat for thirty years he bore his affliction with great fortitude and by his cheerful resignation, piety and fortitude set an example to the power of that religion which he taught. He died 15th June 1809 in the 63rd of his age and in the 49th of his ministry.

He married (1) and had six sons, William, James, George, Mr Ludovick, Alexander W. S. Edinburgh, and John.

(2) 17 February 1780 Agnes Anderson, daughter of the previous incumbent. She died 22 May 1825 aged 76 and had two sons Thomas and James and a daughter Agnes who married Rev. Alexander Simpson of Strichen. He wrote the *Statistical Account of the Parish* (see tombstone.)

1734—Mr James Leslie, schoolmaster.

18—Mr Joseph McKenzie, schoolmaster Glenquithel.

183—Mr Charles Forbes, Schoolmaster.

EXTRACTS FROM KIRK SESSION RECORDS

1696.—The utensils of the church at Mr James Brown's entry are as follows: Two silver cups for the communion and table cloths, an bason for baptism, an kirk box and leaden tokens.

Poor's money:- 300 marks in the hands of John Hay, merchant in Fraserburgh and Alexander Craik writer there,

100 merks Scots in the hands of the late laird of Tyrie, several years annual rents resting be William Forest in Auchentum.

In the box £7 3s Sc. which is now distributed among 22 poor folk within the paroch it being a tyme of great death and many every day dying,

viz. £4 equally distributed among eight poor that were bedrid and £3 among 14 men that were able to go and beg.

George Gordon, Schoolmaster is clerk to the session. The minister was in the south from the date of his admission 26th August 1697 till 13th February 1698 and service was held occasionally by probationers also by Mr Patrick Innes, Banff, Mr William Hunter minister of Tyrie &c. Amount of 10 days collection £7 16s Sc.

1698 February 25--William Hepburn compeared and confessed his breach of Sabbath in going on the Lord's day to a poor honest man's house in the land of Achmedden with a sword offering violence and searching for stolen goods at his own hand as he pretended, whereupon he was rebuked and appointed to stand on the stool of repentance the next Lord's day and confess his faults publickly.

Collected for the harbour of Banff £5 18s Sc. given to a poor distressed man in this paroch called Alexander Mathieson who is going to Shetland £1 6s 4d Sc. also he got a testificate.

William Whyte got 15s Sc. for making graves to severall poor stranger people who died in the paroch.

£3 13s 8d was distribute to eight poor bedrid people in the paroch who are in great straits by reason of the death and famine in the land.

March 11—The elders are appointed to collect by turns two and two each day.

The minister is appointed to speak with the lady Tyrie anent her first husband Tyrie his bond and to seek up the annual rents that are greatly needed in this strait time, ther having been none paid as yet.

The session appoint that all new intrants to the paroch testificats should get them and this act to be intimate from the pulpit.

A petition was presentit by one William Dugat, a poor gentleman, sometym in this paroch. He is appointed to get the next day's collection [£3 15s 2d collected.]

Reported that John Cumine of Achrie, younger, is contracted in marriage with Anna Forbes, daughter to James Forbes of Pitnacaddell, and these ordered to be proclaimed.

The minister did acquaint the elders that he resolved to keep a weekly lecture, both for the edification of the people and for the baptisms and

also for the session's meeting every Thursday. The elders are well pleased with the motion.

The minister reports that he spoke with the Lady Tyrie anent the bond due be her son to the poor. She acknowledged her husband's bond and was willing to pay the annual rent thereof, but wanting money in the meantime offered meall at the rate she getteth for meal she selleth to others. The session doth acquiesce to the motion and appointeth Peter Thane to go and receive such meal in their name as the said Lady can spare for the relief of the poor.

A petition was presented to the session by one John Fraser, a poor gentleman who is known to severall of the session to be a good man, as also his family, being in distress living in the parish of Mortlick.

This day reported by some of the elders that some months ago in tyme of the minister's absence two men in the paroch of Gamrie were found travelling by this place on the Lord's day with carriages on their horse, the one Wilson and the other Ranken. Also this day a letter came from the minister of Gamrie desiring that these two men might be remitted to his session to satisfie at the said Kirk. The session doth allow the same albeit the thing be not so usuall

April 22—Peter Thain has received from the Lady Tyrie two bolls of meal at £8 Sc. each boll in part payment of the annual rents of the 100 merks Sc. The price was judged reasonable considering the great scarcity. At the distribution of that meal William White, kirk officer, got a peck for his pains and his great family and poverty.

Given to George Gordon, session clerk, for his fee conform to use and wont in this paroch 20 marks Sc.

Collections:-March 27 £2 15s 6d; April £3 7s; April 10th; £1 4s; April 17. £1 2s 6d.

May 12th—To William White for burying poor people 6s Sc; to James Third a poor cripple lad in Quarrelburn 10s Sc;

Collections at the wedding of John Cumine of Achrie and Anna Forbes also William Piper and and Helen Smith 30s,;

Collected £3 Sc. for the bridge of Cart in the south at the appointment of the Synod.

Distributions are now the more frequent by reason of the extreme want among the poor.

June 1—This day the session appoints George Pirie and William Gerrad to go the Seatoun of Achmedden the next Lord's day after sermons and there to take notice how the people spend the Lord's day and if they frequent change houses and to report.

Also George Watson and Andrew Cumine are appointed to visite the bounds of North Leslie and Achline the said day.

The session, finding that there are severall families in the paroch under a bad report of theefdeed, appoints that such of them as are lately come in be obliged to produce sufficient testificat or else to be represented to the magistrate that he put them out of the paroch.

George Pirie and William Gerrad report that they went to the Seatoun as they were appointed the last Lord's day, that they went into all the houses and found nothing but sobriety none of them in ale houses, only that many of them had stayed from the kirk that day, which they promised to amend.

Also Andrew Cumine and George Watson report the same of North Leslie and Achline, that many were staying away from the kirk which they promised also to amend.

July 10--£3 8s Sc. distribute because of the great cry of the poor. Twelve persons receive from 3s to 14s each:- a poor traveller belonging to Peterhead 3s. William Gerrad in Glenquithel 6s 8d. Margaret Wells in Pitnacadell 6s &c.

Peter Thane with John Birnie that they had visited the lands of North Leslie on the Lord's day, also George Watson and Andrew Cumine had done the same at Arlahill and all of them had found nought but sobriety.

This day delated to the session: Sarah Club in Achline for pulling and shearing grass on the Lord's day, John Scott, John Kid and Isobell Watt, all in Achmedden, for cursing and swearing and fighting together also William Farquhar and Thomas Scott in Killighren for fighting and swearing also James Lawrence in Aberdour for eating his neighbour's grass with horses on the Lord's day also Thomas Mihie in Acline for carrying cloath to the walkers on Lord's day.

They are all appointed to be cited to the next session day

July 21.—Compeared Sarah Club and confessed her fault in pulling grass on the Lord's day, both in going to and coming From Cartmyres, for which she was gravely rebuked and appointed to be publickly rebuked before the congregation the next Lord's day.

Compeared William Farquhar and Thomas Scott and confessed their rude and unchristian carriage to one and other as also their rash swearing and imprecations, thereby provoking God to wrath. They were sharply rebuked and both summoned to appear the next session day.

Compeared Isobel Watt, confessed her fault of swearing and seemed to be sorry.

John Scott denied but severall of the elders complained of the said Scott that he was an habitual curser and swearer.

John Kid appeared not. His case deferred.

Compeared James Lawrence and denied the accusation.

Thomas Mihie also appeared and denied.

This day James Forbes of Pitnecadell delivered up the old Session book which was in Mr Reinold's tym and got a receipt.

Alexander Lunen, sheriff officer, arrested Isobell Robertson's goods' and her master has delivered to him nine merks for her penalty.

William Gerrad is appointed to speak to the goodwife of Glenhousses anent one Margaret Reid who is under a very bad report of thecdced and wanted a certificate.

Jean McKian in Urinal brought a testificate from Frazerburgh.

The session ordains that whosoever man or woman lyeth in the Kirkyard in time of the sermon except they be sick shall be censured as Sabbath breakers.

August 7th. William Farquhar and Thomas Scott were ordered to agree togidder before the session by taking one another by the hand which they did and promised to live in peace in all tyme coming. But withal the session considering that they had given great offence to the whole congregation they are appointed to stand before the congregation the next Lord's day and be rebuked.

John Kid, John Scot and Isobell Watt are appointed to stand before the congregation the next Lord's day and be rebuked.

Alexander Gall witnesses that Thomas Mihi came to his house on the Lord's day and was carrying a little piece of cloth. Alexander Gall's wife did not see nor know of it. The matter cannot be made out and the said Thomas Mighie was seriously admonished to be circumspect in all tyme coming and let this be a warning to him and so was dismissed.

Given to William Chalmer, a poor man whose father was old, minister at Peterhead 19s. The goodman of Achline promises to put George Kempon and his family away in case they did get not a testificate from Tyrie within three or four weeks. The same of the goodwife of Glenhouse anent Margaret Reid. Isobel Craik in Urinal was complained on for being rude to her husband William Reid. They are appointed to be cited to the next dyet.

August 24—List of Elders.—James Forbes of Pitnacadell, Henry Caddell at the Mill of Aberdour, William Gordon in Bankhead, William Gerrad in Towie, George Pirie and George Watson both in Aberdour, Peter Thane in Quarrelburn, Andrew Cumine in Killign, John Binnie in Urinal and John Forbes in Acline.

It is found that George Kempon and his family, as also Margaret Reid can procure no testimonials wherefor the session appoints that this be intimate that none in the parish resett them.

Collected at two marriages 4s 4d, which was given to William White, kirk officer for his pains in cleansing the communion table cloaths.

Compeared Isobel Claik in Urinal and confessed she had not been so dutiful to her husband William Red as she ought to have been and the said William being present the woman was rebuked before the session and both of them promised to be more dutiful in tyme coming were dismissed.

William McKeinzie in Pitnacadell being cited came to the session and was rebuked for his rash contending on the Lord's day for a seat in the Kirk which he pretended he had right to by his wife. He promised not to contend further on the Lord's day providing that any man would give him some money for said seat. The session gave him 13s 4d.

James Wilson and his wife compeared and confessed that ther had been some differences between them but promised to amend. They were both rebuked before the session for the scandal they had given and dismissed with this certification that their nixt rebuk should be more publik.

The session appoints that Robert Sangster and his wife, James Woodman and his wife be reckoned as persons not to be resett as not having gotten testiificates nor can get any and this to be intimate that they may remove.

James Reid in Glenquithell gave in a petition to the session desiring that his deposition and right that he got from George Brown his umquhill father-in law to a desk in the Kirk might be confirmed by the session. The seat or desk stands in the east side of the S.W. door. The whilk off in the session taking to their serious consideration did unanimously give their consent that the said seat should be possest with James Reid as it is their concern in the said matter which is always to be understood of the timber but not of the ground whereon it stands.

Deleted that a vagabond woman was haunting in George Hepburns house he being himself alone in the house and a young man who is not circumspect in his walk. James Forbes is to go to the said house and cause put her away lest she be a temptation to the said George.

1699 January 5.—Given to George Gordon for teaching scholar 4s. To William White for burying three dead folk 6s 8d. Elspet Eslmont for her penalty she has some cloths that were given to William White, officer.

The woman is gone away from George Hepburns house. The session taking to their consideration the great abounding of the sin of uncleanes in this paroch resolve to augment the number of days standing as also to be carefull that no loose persons wanting testificates haunt in this paroch.

George Gordon, clerk, received out of the box £3 togidder with Agnes McKneskar's web and plaids for his half year's fee being ten marks Sc which clears all preceding Mertimes 1698 also the said web and cloth of Agnes McKneskar doth recompense for one lib. Sc. of the 40s he is to get for his shoes in this current year 1699.

The minister being to go south it is earnestly recommended to the elders to be carefull in noticing scandals &c.

January 22.—James Low and George Shand are delated to the session for stealing kail on the Lord's day. No sermon for several Sundays in January, February, and March "by reason of scarcity of ministers to suply and their great distance".

The minister returned 2nd April when distributions as followeth the poor increasing dayly through the great famine: 17 persons receive 4s each.

To William White for burying 15 poor stranger people 15s. George Gordon got for completing his shoe silver 14s.

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It is constantly affirmed that Agnes McKneskar is dead never having returned from Cullen with her testificate..

April 16.—Some complaints given in against Agnes Heburn in Windieheads that she shud resett one James Heatherwick a young boy who is a common stealer and slayer of sheep. It was judged reasonable that the said Agnes shud come here the next day to cleer herself in case of giving the Lord's supper it sud be a stumbling to the Lord's people to see her at the table under such an ill fame as also the said Heatherwick is to be cited.

April 27.—To Alexander Lunen for arrestment of Elspeth Eslemont's goods and for putting away some thieves out of the paroch also for keeping out vagrants from residing, also for shoes to the poor 18s.

Compeared James Low and George Shand in the in the Seatoun of Auchmedden and confesst that on the Lord's day in the evening they went to Troup in the paroch of Gamrie. They were gravilie admonished that it was a double crime to appear before the congregation to get a public rebuke.

This day compeared James Anderson and James Syme and it is found that James Sym came to James Anderson's house on the Lord's day in the morning and took away a plaid with great violence struggling with Anderson and hurt him which the said James did ingenuously confesse, promised not to do the like in tyme coming whereupon the said James to be publicly rebuked before the congregation and to pay 6s 8d.

Compeared Janet Strath and confest she had gone she had gone into John Sangster's house and had used imprecations on his wife. She was rebuked and appointed to appear before the congregation the next Lord's day ther to be publicly rebuked.

Compeared Agnes Heburn, John Foules' wife, in Windieheads and denied that she had reset anything stollen by the boy James Hetherwick, Also compeared James Hetherwick who is a qualified thieff and did confidently affirm that he gave the said Agnes a wether skin and some hogs' skins which he had stollen and he declared further that the sheep were killed in his mother's, also several others do affirm that they saw sheep killing in Barbara Foulie's house, the mother of the boy. The session thought such matters did not belong to them only they did admonish Agnes Hepburn that this had a language to her, whether she were free or guilty, also the elders reporting that that John Foulie and his wife have not walked heretofore as becomes the gospell. She is warned

with certification that if their walk be not as becoms Christians it will confirm the country rumour of them and in the meantyme the session recommends to the Magistrate that the said Hetherwick and his mother be removed out of the paroch.

George Adamson, elder, in Neither Glaslaw did give in a gift for the use of the poor an bond of 25 merks Sc. resting be George Forbes in Killighn, which the Session accepts with thankfulnes.

May 7. Patrick Symson in Aberdour gave in an complaint against William Weem in Aberdour aleding that the said William Weems had taken away his good name by calling a thief or saying at least that he wold make Patrick Symson compt for the breaking of his house and that William Weems had said the same to John Bisset in Roseheartly.

Complaint was given that severall people do absent from the afternoon's sermon. The session appoints two of the elders to mark those who go away without a relevant excuse and to report.

May 21.—James Sym was publicly rebuked and he promised to have a regard to the Lord's day in tym coming. Anent George Forbes in Killighn. His penalty he said was in sore straits hsw to maintain his family and offered plenishing if anybody were needing any. The Session refers the matter to further consideration.

William Weems confesses he said if Peter Symson's coulter of his plough (which was found at William Weem's his that night his house was broken) it wold tell who brak the house and denied altogidder that ever he spok of Peter Symons name. They shake hands in peace before the Session.

The Session appoints that the boats of Penin and the boats of Aberdour and Northleslie should not stay later on the sea on Saturday's nights than sunset, lest they should incroach on the Lord's day and this Act is to be intimate on the next Lord's day lest the seamen in the summer should stay too late at sea.

The minister and elders that there are too few elders for such a vast paroch they resolve to have more added and everyone are to bring in a list whom they think fit to be added against the new Session.

June 18.—given to Isobell Birnie a dying creatur 4s.

July 6.—Distributed to the poor in Great extremity twelve in number including to William White officer for burying poor people. 8s. Alexander Lunen by virtue of a warrant from the Sheriff to point these persons that were last rebuked publicly till they pay each half a mark Sc. to the officer.

The minister reports that he has gotten some plenishing from George Forbes to the value of 10 marks Sc. The session discharges the said George of his penalty for the 10 marks Sc. because of his distress.

Given to the poor of Pitnacaddell an years interest of 100 marks confirm to the will of the mortifier who was old Pitnacaddell £3 15.

The Session finding that George Gordon is not capable of teaching the school and to profit the boys in the Latine, and yet being loath to put him away abruptly because he had been so long in this place therefore an year to come do with the consent of the heritors specially had thereto continue the said George in the profits of the kirk as precenter and of uplifting the school meall at the end of which year he is to provide for himself elsewhere and in the meantyme because the boys needeth one to teach them and the session having good information of one Mr William Thane as a youth who is capable for the said effect and a sober, pious, young man, do agree that for the encouragement of the said Mr William. He shall get £20 Sc. for this year out of the box, whereupon he was settled the same day to the said employment as also he was made Session clerk in the room of the forsaid George Gordon.

+July 9.—£4Sc. received from the Lady Tyrie as interest of the 100 merks in her son's hands.

July 27.—Given to the bursar to this presbytery £6 13 4d. Given to a poor beggar man at this door 1s Sc [1d Stg]. Reported that William Forrest in Achentum offereth some beasts as nolt or sheep for paying his debt to the Session. It is agreed that William Gordon and George Pirie go and see these goods and to report.

August 13.—Paid for a Session book £1 11s Sc. To the officer for burying many poor 13s. The elders are appointed to attend at the Sacrement of the Lord's Supper as follows. Imprimis James Forbes of Pitnacaddell to wait on the bread and cary it with the assistance of. . . . Item Henry Caddell and William Gordon on the communion cupes one on each side of the table.

It: George Piry and John Wast, younger, to gather the tokens.

It: James Reid and Andrew Cumine to attend on Henry Cumine and William Gordon.

It: Peter Thane to wait on the elements in tyme of sermon.

It: John West, elder, and John Birnie at each end of the table one to keep of throngs and to conduct the people in and out.

Gathered for the poor these three days viz. Saturday, the Lord's day and Monday.

Given to George Gordon of gratuity, because he is exceeding poor, the elders being very unanimous therein £9 12s.

To William White for shoes and setting the tables as is use and wont £1.

Distribute among the common beggars 6s 8d.

September 16.—To William White, officer, for burying several poor folk very humbling sights 6s.

Delation given against Robert Peddie in Achmedden for carrying goods on the Lord's day. He was cited to this day. He compeared and acknowledged that he brought an pek of turneips out of Fedderet in New Deer paroch to Achmedden on the Lord's day in the forenoon and was sorry he had done so. He was rebuked and appointed to get a publick rebuk before the congregation the next Lord's Day.

Delation given in against Christain Meldrum in Arlahill for cursing and swearing also for lying at home from the kirk. She is to be cited to the next dyet save one.

October 1.—To the officer for burying poor folk 8s.

Delation given in against Isobel Massie for breach of Sabbath in carrying loads of meal from the mill.

The session ordains that those poor in the paroch who are constantly supplied out of the box in case they leave any goods at their death that the session shal dispose of those for the use of other poor in the paroch as they shall see cause.

October 12.—Compeared Christan Meldrum and confessed her rash swearing with a great many extenuations of her fault, it being found by many witnesses that the said Christain is an habitual swearer and a dishaunter of ordinances the session appoints her to sitt two Lord's days on the stool in the publik place in time of publik worship for example.

Isobell Massie appointed to get a publik rebuke the next Lord's day. She is reproved sharply that she being a goodwife of a town and a widow woman come to years it was a bad influence to others.

November 2.—To William White for burying poor folk 6s.

November 16.—Distribution to the poor for buying of shoes for the winter. Twenty three receive from 5s to 6s 8d each Gratuity to George Gordon, precenter, to buy shoes and other necessaries to him £2.

To the session clerk, Mr Thane to buy shoes £2.

To Isobel Dalgarno, a distressed gentlewoman in the paroch, 18s.

November 30.—Complaint given in against Alexander White in Arlahill for sending servants errands on the Lord's day with letters on trivial and small concerns. He is to be cited. Complaint given in against Elspeth Crookshank and Jean Drum, seawives, for carrying fish on the Lord's day to houses to be sold. They are appointed to be cited.

William Wast in the Seatoun compeared giving in a complaint against Janet Daunie in the Seatoun for slandering his wife, Mary Wilson, calling her thief. The parties to be cited.

December 10.—Alexander White confessed he sent his servant on the Lord's day with a letter to Cowbognie and told his servant to take the first horse that came to his way. He is to be rebuked publikly.

Compeared Jean Drum and Elizabeth Crookshank and it was found that Jean Drum had brought some haddocks in her lap as she was coming into the kirk and had left them in a house to be compted for afterwards, also that Elizabeth Crookshank had gone out and bought some milk on the Lord's day. Her master William Gaat was grave admonished to beware of giving offence in tyme coming, also the said Elspeth and Jean Drum was rebuked for their uncircumspect walking. They all promised to be more cautious in tyme coming and so wer dismissed.

December 24.—To William White for burying poor folk 5s. Alexander Cumine, wright in Rosehearty, having made a coffin to a poor man whose friends has not paid him he petitioned the Session to give him payment. The affair delayed.

January—7.—Janet Daunie being convict is rebuked before the session and appointed to be publicly rebuked. Complaint was given in against several who going to gather ware at the sea too early on Monday morning are ready to encroach on the Lord's day. It is appointed that none go to

the ware on Monday morning till they see the sky begin to clear and this to be intimate the nixt Lord's day from the pulpit.

January 27.—The officer representing his great toil in summonding severall people he being old and his numerous smal family the Session allows at this time beside his fee of £2 18 Sc.

February 10.—To the kirk officer for burying poor folk 5s. This day the heritors did meet with the Session in pursuance of the Act of the Commissioners of the shire that every land should maintain their own poor and a scourger to be appointed for holding out stranger beggars it was unanimously agreed to do it as far as they could but withal it would be hard to keep out strangers there being so great multitudes of poor going up and down.

March 10.—The session taking to their consideration that severall young people do possess the forebreast of the common loft in time of sermon to the prejudice of others of others that are old, therefor the session appoints in all time coming that some grave aged men of my Lord Pitsligo or Auchmedden's land should be advertised to come to the session the next day and they paying each of them 6s 8d Sc. for the use of the poor should possess each of them a seat in the forebreast of the loft for als many as it will contain and this only to be during their own life tyme.

Complaint given in against Janet Club, younger, in Achmedden that she sent her servant with some little meall to her mother on the Lord's day which has given offence to some. She is appointed to be cited to the next dyet.

April 11.—This day Alexander Lunen, the two John Wasts, elders in the Seatoun, the two William Wasts there and John Watt ther, compeared desiring the benefite of the forebreast in the common loft, which was granted, and every one of them gave in his half mark.

Compeared Janet Club and confessed that she sent some meall to her mother on the Lord's day in her mother's great necessity and that she had no will her goodman should have known of it. The session considering the matter seriously and finding the said Janet to have been off a blameless walk heretofore it is the sessions mind that the said Janet be gravely rebuked before them with a certification which was accordingly done and so dismissed.

May 16.—For transporting the old bell of the kirk south by sea and bringing home a new one was given £2 3 Sc.

Complaint was given in against William Mihi in Arlahill and Janet Keith his mother that they have had a very scandalous behaviour to one another in cursing one another and that on the Lord's day. They are to be cited.

Complaint given in against James Richie and his wife for striving with Alexander Forbes and cursing one another, all three in Kiliqrn. The Session enjoyns that members shall not divulge things acted in the Session but shall be cautious what they speak.

May 26.—Witnesses appear in Janet Keith's case. None of the three witnesses can sign their names. The witnesses all agree the parties used frequently to curse each other. The parties accused deny. The Session appoint the said Janet to stand at the kirk door in sackcloth half an hour ere the minister come in and after that shall stand at the pillar foot in time of sermon and be rebuked publicly and shall pay two pounds Sc. and her son to do the lik on Sabbath thereafter and to pay the like penalty. None of the three witnesses in James Richie's case can sign their names. James Richie and his wife to sit on the stool Sabboth next and pay 20s each.

June 9.—To William White, officer, for claying the schoolhouse 7s.

June 16.—A commission came from the Shereff of Aberdeen to be assisting the Session in punishing wickedness. Given to Mr John Forbes for bringing it out of Aberdeen 2s.

Mr Thane, Session Clerk and teacher of boys in the Latine who is now established Schoolmaster and precenter and George Gordon being at the last term altogether laid aside, the said Mr Thane got to compleat his year's fee £7 6s 8d.

Alexander Lunen reports that James Richie and his wife being unwilling to pay their fines he had poinded them and taken a pot from them. The Session appoints the said Alexander Lunen with George Pirie one of the elders to go and make offer of the said pot on the terms of paying the fine and if they refuse that the same be roupd and sold. Also Alexander Lunen reports that he had arrested Alexander Forbes his fee in his master's hand till his fine be payd.

August 11.—Complaint given in against John and George Cumines in the Seatoun also against the youngest John Wast that they dishaunt the ordinances and come very seldom to the kirk. They are to be cited to the next dyet.

August 25.—Compeared John and George Cumines. They were rebuked for their negligence and promised amendment. The Session ordains that these who ly away from the kirk if they continue so shall be publikly rebuked and fined 6s 8d as oft as they stay away without a lawfull excuse.

September 8.—Given to George Gordon, late schoolmaster, who is poor and hes been long here. £7 3s.

December 29.—Collected this day for the captives in Aregiers among the Turks belonging to Kirkaldie, by order of the Council, the sum of £9 Sc.

To William White, officer, for burying a poor man 3s.

George Heburn, relapse, compeared. He was appointed to appear before the congregation and withall that no woman shall be alowed to stay in his house except he marry.

1701-January 26.—To two distressed familys being eight in number having lost their goods by sea coming from Ireland, the men seemed to have been gentlemen souldiers, and one of them wanted an arm £1. Duncan Campbell, a card, who stayed sometymes in Pitnacadell produced a testificate from Angus.

February 2.—George Gordon, late Schoolmaster, had a daughter baptised called Isobell.

Complaint given in against Agnes Wilson in Northleslie and Isobell Imrie ther that they had been striving togidder and cursing one another, lykewise the said Agnes Wilson, wife to Alexander Gaa is reported to curse her husband and also to curse her own mother.

George Hebburn made his last appearance before the congregation and was received promising through the Lord's assistance he would never fall into the snare of the Divell and should take care to be watchful in al tyme coming. Anent his penalty he said he had no money but did promise two pairs of plaids with a pistoll till he should redeem them.

March 16.—George Heburn's pauns are to be sold if not relieved by betwixt and the middle of April. Alexander Mitchell heard Agnes Wilson say to her mother "The Divell fell her with a whinestone" [other examples are given] Christian Robertson said with grief and great affliction her daughter had cursed her twenty tymes.

April 20.—Given to a poor traveller, a boy, 1s Sc. [1d Stg.] Agnes Wilson is sharply rebuked before the session and told she was a person worthy or death who had cursed her parent and told her that without repentance she would meet with God's wrath against her both here and hereafter. They appoint her to stand at the pillar foot in sackcloth untill the people see signs of her sorrow for her sin also she is to crave her mother pardon.

Agnes Wilson not having obeyed the Session the officer is appointed to cite her, otherwise they will give her a more sharp punishment by causing the civil magistrate scourge her for her great wickedness.

May 25.—The minister reports that Robert Cairns is dead of a high fever upon the very day that was appointed and sett for his marriage.

George Piry gave in £2 to the Session as the price of George Heburn's plaids, they being old and sore worn. He has not sold the pistoll the said Heburn being so miserable by his wickedness that it cannot be expected to get more out of him.

Agnes Wilson hath obeyed the order of the session. She was commanded to ask her mother forgiveness upon her knees which accordingly she did with tears.

The heretors and elders mett for settling a salary for the Schoolmaster according to law but nothing was concluded at this tyme in regard of my Lord Pitsligoe's absence.

To Andrew Cuming for making a convenient barrow to carry Janet Blak, cripple, 10s Sc.

July 12.—The minister reports that George Michie and his wife Helen Lamb compeared before the congregation and were publickly rebuked for their charming.

John Lunan, younger, servant at Nether Mill, to be cited for behaving unseemly in the kirk in tyme of sermon by offering violence to some of his neighbours.

Complaint was given in against Andrew Fidas, John Ogston and George Milton, fishers in Aberdour, that they had stayed late on the season on Saturday's night last, notwithstanding of several warnings. They are to be cited.

July 20.—John Lunen confessed that he strake James Ogsten with a wand, the said James seeking to take it from him. The Session considering the matter seriously did give the said John a sharp rebuk before the Session and upon his promise to be more cautious in tyme coming he was dismissed with certification.

Compeared Andrew Fidas, John Ogston and George Milton and were rebuked for staying so late on the sea on Saturday was eight days. They were convinced of it, and told they wold be more cautious in tyme coming. The Session ordains in case of transgressing this way again each of them shall pay a mark and not be allowed to go to sea on Saturday afternoon.

James Innes, Laird of Lichnet, in the paroch of Gamrie, had a son baptised, July 2nd 1701 at this kirk called John.

Complaint was given in against Patrick Byth in Cowbogue that he or his family should be guilty of breach of Sabbath by causing his servants to carry meal, webs or yarn on the Lord's day.

July 24—Thursday—A day of humiliation—fast before the congregation.—Patrick Blyth is appointed to be rebuked publickly on Saturday next being the day of preparation before the Communion.

August 7.—Given to poor parlitik man. Mr Hugh Lin 10s
To George Gordon, late schoolmaster, of charity £4.

Complaint given in against James Bruce in Achmedden for cursing and reviling his father, as also against William Daunie in the Seatoun a young lad for banning and swearing at severall tymes and on the sea and being undutiful to his mother.

September 14.—Collected on Saturday at the baptism of William Baird of Auchmedden his first child, who was baptised on 30th August 1701 and called William, £7 10s.

Collections—September 7th 15s; Sept 14th. 19s. Sept 21st 22s
Sept. 28th 15s.

Compeared James Bruce accused of giving uncivil language to his father, bidding the divel take him and calling him lyar. He confessed uncivil language to his father but denied he banned him. Witnesses being examined he confessed, said he was exceedingly sorry and promised never to do the like again.

The Session considering that this is a heinous crime and worthy of death by the law of God as also that said James is not a child but a married man himself and further that he is a furious, passionate, creature he was first sharply rebuked before the Session and appointed to stand the next Lord's day in sackcloth at the pillar foot, the place wher adulterers do stand to be there rebuked and should pay a £4. of fine.
George Ferrier and Isobell Bruce were married at this kirk Aug. 26th.

October 26th.—Compeared Alexander Davidson in Woodhead, charged with lying at home from the house of God on the Lord's day. He confessed his fault, but aleadged he wanted shoes and therfor could not come. He was rebuked and admonished to attend on the ordinances and he shuld get money to buy shoes when the rest of the poor got which is to be on 2nd. November.

November 30th.—Paid Mr William Thane, schoolmaster, for his half year's fee £10.
He is to remove from the paroch at this term of Martinmass 1701.
To buy a sackcloth £1 1s 6d.

The Session considering the great abounding of uncleanness in this paroch do appoint a four nooked big stool made of an ell high to stand in the mids of the floor before the pulpit, to be a terror to faulters, that they may come from the remote public places, and stand ther when the minister rebukes them.

December 7.—Sederunt all the members with The Laird of Auchmedden and Northleslie, also Mr Hugh Innes, minister at Mortlach, was here at the Session, who was appointed for choosing a Session magistrate both heretors, minister and elders being sensible of the great increase of wickedness in this paroch, also an Act of Parliament in anno

1672 appointed Session bailiffs in each paroch, where other judges are wanting, which Act was read in the face of the Session.

James Forbes of Pitnecadell is chosen by a great plurality of votes and an Act was drawn up bearing that the said James was chosen, which Act

is to be sent to Aberdeen to the Sheriff Deput togidder with £2 18s to be given to the clerk for drawing a deputation for the said effect.

December 14.—To Andrew Cumine for making the faulters's stool 5s Sc, which was befor appointed to be made to stand before the pulpit, it was of an old broken boat. The stool is made before the pulpit and the faulters come there and are rebuked as appointed.

Delation against Jean Birnie, that she is with child, being a widow twice and now a single woman who was almost starving in tyme of the great famine unless her father Alexander Birnie had taken her in with her three small children. She is appointed to appear in sackcloth.

1702-January 11.—Th Session accept £10 Sc. from George Forbes now in Tyrie for his bond of 25 marks as he is very low in the world and especially in consideration that his wife Anna Ramsay is daughter to Mr William Ramsay somtym minister at Aberdour. Compeared Agnes Gordon and regretted that she had nothing to pay her penalty. She is delayed, it being found that the passing of penalties would greatly embolden people to wickedness.

Mr George Johnston, a young man from Tarves has come to teach the school, precent and be Session Clerk in stead of Mr William Thane, now gone to the profession of Divinity.

Jan. 25—He is admitted and the Session do allow him for this year £20, and he was exhorted to be diligent. To George Gordon who is poor and has been teaching the school since Mr Theu went away £4.

To Mr George Johnston for teaching two boys that are poor an quarter, each half an mark is 13s 4d.

It is appointed that all the children that learn English shall pay but quarterly 6s 8d Sc., also that some poor boys viz. three shall be taught free by turns that is always three and it shall come orderly about among the poor children.

March 1st.—To William Wind, a poor seaman, his wife has born two children at one birth £1.

To William Alexander, a boy in Nether Mill, who has gotten a sore strok on his leg with a horse £1.

To Alexander Tarves, a poor lad who has left his service through a swelling in his leg, an income of £1.

To a beggar 4d Sc [$\frac{1}{3}$ rd of a penny Sc.]

May 31.—To Christain Tailor, a beggar 6d Sc. To two other beggars 1s Sc. each. To John More a broken man in Frazerburgh £1 6s 8d. Several penalties are still unpaid. The pistol in George Pirie's hand is not yet sold.

William Forrest in Achentum came to the minister and some of the elders last Session day, offering pennyworths for his bond of 50 merks with the annual rents either horse or nolt. William Gordon in Bankhead and George Watson in Aberdour, two of the elders were appointed to sight the goods. They receive a little brown naig at £24 Sc. of price also two young queys at £9 Sc. each. The bond with the annual rents amounts to £40 6s 8d. He is to receive back two riecks Sc.. The Session appoints George Watson to see if he can get a merchant for the horse.

The minister having now the gotten Commission from Aberdeen to James Forbes to be Session Magistrate resolve to take course with swearers and other transgressors of the law.

June 14.—It being represented that George Mihi and his wife Helen Lamb in Quarrelburn are guilty of charming in laying hot stones above their door head to know thereby some sickness of their child whereby it has come to pass in the just judgement of God that their house and all their plenishing with barns and byrs are totally burnt to ashes viz the hot stones taking fire in the thack of the house. They are appointed to compear before the Session the nixt dyet.

It being represented that one Margaret Woodman a man's wife in the paroch of Frazerburgh has deserted her husband and liveth in this parish at Auchmucludie, William Forbes, one of the elders, is appointed to cause her put out of that place, as being chamberlane to my Lady Pitsligo, and he is to cause his officer put her out of the paroch.

June 28.—This day compeared George Mihi and his wife confessing that that they had used these charms of hot stone whereby there house was burnt and that they learned the same from a beggar wife. The Session did favour them upon the compt of their simplicity and ingenuity and because the Lord has punished them for their folly. They are appointed to be publicly rebuked the next Lord's day.

James Wilson and others compeared and denied they broke a millstone in my Lord Pisligo's millstone quarry.

William Forbes reports he caused remove Margaret Woodman from Auchmacludie and put her out of the paroch.

Collected Fast Day (Thursday) £1 6s.

On Saturday, Lord's day and Monday £50 7s 4.

Given to the common beggars and to the poor in the paroch of Tyrie 15s 2d.

September 27.—Given at the earnest request of Mr Andrew Guthrie, minister at Peterhead, to one Mr William Frazer a young man in the said town sore afflicted with the falling sickness £3.

Alexander Pedder appointed to pay £100 Sc. and £4 Sc. for the woman and that he stand in sackcloth at the kirk door till the minister come in between the second and third bell and at the pillar foot during the time of sermon. He hath previously paid 100 merks at Deer.

Oct 11.—Collected for George Mihi £5 17s 4d which was given him with an admonition to bewar of charming in tyme coming.

Dec 20.—The Session appoints 3s 4d Sc. to be given to William White in all tyme coming by each delinquent by and outover their penalty and they who have the sackcloth shall pay 6s Sc.

Collected for the distressed inhabitants of Leith and sent south £4.

1703—February 14. It being found that George Gordon, late Schoolmaster is in a dying condition now for several weeks and also very poor the Session ordains him to get £5 Sc.

March 21.—William Dounie in the Seatown confessed cursing his neighbours on the sea upon the account that his bonnet had blown of his head into the water. He is ordained to be publikly rebuked before the congregation and to pay a merk of fine. He has carried most kindly to his mother since he was charged 2 years ago.

Register of the Poors' Money 1766—1799

1766—February 14.—Previous to this date money had been mortified by Lady Jean Hay for the Schoolmaster of Glenquithel's salary.

State of the Poors' Money: Promissory note from Alexander Gordon Esq. of Aberdour for £666 13s 4d interest for six years last past £200.

Total of bills, interest &c. £1927 0s 10d Sc.
 To Andrew Forest in Auchentum his funerals £6.
 To William Whyte in Aberdour his coffin £2 8s.

1770.—To iron bolts for the mill bridge and the church windows 16s.
 To three trees for a Bridge at Mull of Aberdour for letting the people pass to the Church.

1771.—To John Keith late schoolmaster in Glenquithel, insane £6.
 To making a communion table, for wood and bringing it home £1 16s.

1772.—Received for the seats belonging to the Session £21 14s.
 To two shipwreck'd families going for America £1 4s.
 Transporting Margaret Craik in Auchlin to and from the Infirmary £6 6s.

1774.—To Christian Birnie in Mains of Auchmedden to assist her in building a house £3 12s.

1775.—To Alexander Leask, Schoolmaster of Glenquithel his salary for the year £25 6s. Collected for Annie Ogston, widow in Auchlin, whose house with everything it contained was consumed by fire £25 6s.

1776.—To buy a bible for the Church £4 10s.

1778.—To paid for a stone of wool for Isobel Sherer in Coburty for making cloths for her, her house being broken open and robbed. £8 6s.

1778 To two wounded sailors 10s.

1779.—To paid for glazing the window in the west gavel of the church 15s. To mending the lock of the aile of the church 6s. To a new desk for the Schoolhouse £9.

1780.—To paid for glazing the windows of the church in consequence of an agreement with the heritors who gave up the seats of the loft to the Kirk Session for the use of the poor. £2 4s 6d. Repairing the door

To Alexander Leask, schoolmaster at shore of Auchmedden for half year £12 10s. Repairing the door in the west loft of the church 6s.
 Alexander Leask, schoolmaster, Glenquithel's salary £12 10s.

1781.—To Helen Dunbar in Auchentum for repairing her home £4 3s.
 George Gall's wife's coffin £3. Paid a window for the west loft in the

church £18. To William Michael, a lame boy, to buy clothes for him before he go to his apprenticeship £6.

1782.—Lent to William Michael, son to William Michael in Coburty, lame, to pay his apprenticeship fee, upon condition of being repaid, if ever his circumstances enable him £12.

Collected for Isobel Smith, a poor woman who had lost her all by fire £18 6s 3d. Paid the clerk £3 annually for teaching poor children.

1783.—June.—Disbursements to the poor at this time £229 in place of £60 to £90 which was the average of ordinary years.

53 persons received meal and money instead of 24 the usual number.

Charge for bringing 12 bolls of his Majesty's meal from Peterhead. 10s.

1784.—New door for the church £4 3s 6d.

To two supplicants who lost their ships in the stormy weather £1 4s.

Glazing school windows 17s 6d. Rope for the bell 6s.

1786.—New box with two locks &c. for holding the collections £2 16s.

Given to James Barnet to assist him in buying a horse £4 16s.

To Mary Wise in Seatown to assist her in building a house £1 16s.

Lent Elizabeth Sangster to be repaid when she can £6.

1787.—New window for the church £2 2s.

1788.—Received from James Massie in Mossie out of the subjects of his mother, Margaret Pyper, now deceased in gratitude for the Session's charity to her £12.

To Agnes Forbes in Auchentum to cast her peats £1 10s.

November 5.—Collected £3 18s 9d being centennial of the Revolution.

1792.—August 26—Collected for four widows in the Fishtown of Boddam whose husbands perished at sea £17 17s.

[Gatt and West are common names in the Seatown at this period.]

1795.—Glazing windows in the school 18s.

Collected in all at Communion time £65 17s.

1796.—Legacy left the Kirk Session by Mr Reid late in Ravensden, parish of Gamrey after deducting expenses £229 4s.

1727—March.—Lost upon meal bought at 20s per boll and sold at 16, besides the meal and money subscribed by the parishioners for supplying the poor last summer £15 6s.

Mortcloth dues:- March, £6 6s, June, £2 2s, November £6 6s.

To the officer for his trouble and handling broads to the elders for collecting £3.

Collected for the Infirmary at Aberdeen £1 10s stg.

[The accounts are kept in Scots money till 10th September 1809 except occasional entries in Sterling money.]

1806-Salaries.—Clerk £20, Officer £8,
Schoolmaster at Glenquithel £25 Sc.

1807—Feb. 22.—Collected by an Act of the General Assembly to assist in building a bridge over the Dee at Ballater 16s 6d Stg.

Collections-Sept 6th 31 14s; Sept 13 £3 19s 6d; Sept 20th £4 4s;
Sept 27th £5 8s.

1807—Feb 27.—Distributed £118 to 28 poor.

June 4.-£136 6s to 27 poor, Aug 17 th.-£109 16s to 27 poor and

November 26th -£141 2s to 27 poor.

Collections from March 8th to November 22nd-£149 0s 6d.

Received for seats in the church for the year £23 19s. The sittings are from 2d to 7d each.

Names in the Sea loft: West(12), Gaat (5), Watt (4) Ritchie (4) Bruce(3)
Also Legg, Cruikshank, Reid, Rainy, Skinner, Riddell, Morrison,
Murison, Whyte, Massie, Cowie, Callum &c.

1810--Collections-Sept 2 nd 15s 2d; Sept 9 th 14s Sept 16th 14s;
Sept 23rd 12s; Sept 30th 10s.

1811.-Paid for nails and fixing the communion tables 3s 6d. To the officer for his extraordinary trouble the tables being laborious to fix 5s 6d.

1813—Oct 13—John Dingwall Esq. of Brucklay and Miss Gordon of Aberdour had their banns of marriage published.

1814—January 16.—The minister and elders distributed £25 15s of the 35 Stg of the £50 given by Charles Forbes Esq. of Auchmedden to about 100 poor and aged persons.

1828.—Collections in September 11s 4d, 12s 51/2d, 14s 4.

1833.—July 22nd.—Bequest from Mr Dingwall £15. He gives donations of £5 in subsequent years.

1834.—Mr Burnet of Dons bequeaths £50 to the Kirk Session. Donation from Mr Gordon of Aberdeen £5. (repeated annually for some years). Donation from Robert Walker in Bankhead's mother for the aged and indigent, particularly females not upon the roll £100.

1839.—Legacy to the poor by the late Dr Leslie of Memsie £10.

1845—August 4.—The session finding that a Bill for making a better provision for the Poor in Scotland has received the Royal Assent and is now the law of the land, and having reason to believe that the civil courts would not enforce the payment of penalties resolved from the date hereof to dispense with the same.

October 7.—First meeting of the Parochial Board.

1852—Collections in September 10s 7d, 9s 3d, 10s 1d, 9s 3d

In September 1768 the collections amounted to £2 3d, £4 4s, £1 16s and £2 3s Scots

In Sept 1781 the collections varied from £1 17s 9d to £2 16s Scots.

MISCELLANEOUS

The following notes are taken from the STATISTICAL ACCOUNT written in 1792 by Rev. Alexander Youngson, minister of the parish:-

“ The fabric of the church is very old, being built before the Reformation, but in what age is not known. About thirty years ago the aisle was rebuilt and some years after the steeple was rebuilt, but the rest of the fabric is in a bad state of repair and the schoolhouse is quite ruinous.”

The population according to Dr Webster (1755) was 1397; in 1769 it was 1329; in 1792, 1306.

Number of Seceders 19 (being three families) Episcopalians 17, Papists 1 Established Church 1277. Besides the parish school there is an another school in the west corner of the parish near the fishing

Also a woman lives within a quarter of a mile of the church who has taught young children to read English and knit stockings upwards of forty years with great success and what is very extraordinary has still a few scholars who make very good; along with progress under her instruction though she is upwards of 90 years. Her name is Jean Lesly”.

The following Notice appeared as a hand-bill in 1798.

“FEUS OF NEW ABERDOUR—William Gordon Esqr. of Aberdour Intends to feu a certain extent of ground, in order to establish a Village upon his Estate, near the Kirk of Aberdour, and invites industrious Tradesmen and Labourers to the Place where Encouragement will be given.

The feuer will enter to the Feu Ground free of Feu Duty for some years; along with each Feu there will be a certain Extent of Intown and Outfield Land at a reasonable Rent, upon lease, commodious to the Feu. Which will have the Advantage of Moss in Abundance within a mile; and the Village is situated about the Half of that Distance from the Church, School and Sea Shore, in a plentiful Country, and where the Turnpike Road to Banff nearly passes. The Feus may be taken possession of, at or before Whitsunday; and the Lands will be open at the Separation of the present Crop.

In the Vicinity of this Village there is, besides a considerable Extent of Outfield And Pasture Land upon the high Road leading from Turriff, Cumminestone and Byth, towards Aberdour, Roseheart and Fraserburgh; and as these Lots ly near the Moss, and only one Mile from the Sea, and near the intended Turnpike Road, they are favourably situated for the Accommodation of Men of Industry, who, if well recommended, will get independent Leases at reasonable Rents, free of Service and Customs.

Such People as this Village and its Conveniences will suit and those who incline small Possessions upon independent Leases, free of Services, are desired to apply to the Proprietor at Aberdour House—Alexander Crombie, Advocate in Aberdeen—Archibald Young in Banff or to Mr Craik, Schoolmaster of Aberdour”

The NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT, written 1835 and revised 1840 gives the following information:-

"The parish Church stands at the northern extremity of the village of New Aberdour, fronting the High Street, and is very conveniently situated for the greater part of the population. There are several farms in the moors, at a considerable from the church, some of them not less than six or seven miles, but the families upon these farms attend other places of worship that are less distant, and to which they will soon, in all probability be annexed *quod sacra.*"

In reference to the decision of the House of Lords regarding the Manse of Aberdour the writer of the N.S.A. remarks: "The benefit of this decision however advantageous to the church at large, was in a great measure lost to the present incumbent, in consequence of Procurator and Agent for the Church (over whom the minister had no control, as the cause had been taken up by the church, to be conducted at their expense) having sanctioned a plan, which was executed for about £600, and allowed the clergyman after eight years delay, and a triumphant victory, to put his hand into his own pocket, and furnish himself with about one-third of the accommodation which was absolutely necessary for his comfort."

The glebe, including grass ground, and the site of the houses, is between 7 and 8 acres and may be considered worth about £2 per acre. The stipend is 15 chalders of victual, half meal, half barley, paid according to the fiars, with £8 6s 8d for communion elements. . .

With the exception of one weaver and his household almost every family in the parish attends the Established Church. The only sectarians are about half-a-dozen of Seceders, two Scotch Episcopalians and one Roman Catholic.

Number of communicants about 600. Average amount of Church collections for religious and charitable purposes about £39 per annum. In addition to the parochial school, there is a school on the lands of Auchmedden chiefly for the accommodation of the children of the fishermen in the sea-town of Pennan. The teacher receives from the church session the sum of of £2 1s 8d Stirling, out of the interest of money mortified for that purpose, by a Lady Jane Hay, a daughter of the Earl of Kinnoul, of which mortification the Church Session are constituted trustees.

There are several other elementary schools in the parish, some of them taught by unmarried females, and which are very useful for preparing children for the parish school; but none of these schools are endowed and the teachers depend solely on the trifling fees paid by the scholars.

Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, book-keeping, navigation, English, English Grammar and Latin are taught at the parochial school and also at the school of Auchmedden. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is £22 sterling and the fee may amount may to £15 yearly. He has besides, an excellent house and garden.

The fees per month are; reading and writing, 1s; arithmetic 1s 4d; reading only 10d; Latin 1s 6d; bookkeeping £1 for a whole set. All betwixt six and fifteen years of age can read and a considerable proportion can also write.

All above fifteen years of age can read and the greater part can also write....

No person, duly qualified can be found to teach of Auchmedden for the present salary (£2 1s 8d) together with an annual gratuity of £5 Stg. From Sir Charles Forbes. . . . The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 36 and the average allowance to each is £1 4s.

The date 1771 is on the belfry of the church and the bell was put up in 1859.

The Kirk Session Records are as follows:-

1	Minutes	1697-1703
11		1788-1816
111		1826-1855
1V		1854-1861
V		1861 to date
V1	Accounts	1766-1798
V11	(with some minutes)	1802-1812

The Records of Baptisms, deaths and Marriages for this parish in the Register House, Edinburgh, commence in 1698 but many blanks occur.

[THE END]