

PERTH TO ABERDEEN BY FORFAR AND BRECHIN.

Railway.—This route is followed by the L.M.S. Railway.
Distance.—90 miles.

For the coast route *via* Dundee and Montrose, *see* p. 354; for that *via* Blairgowrie and Braemar, *see* p. 357.

CROSS the river at Perth and turn to the left, bearing to right at fork a few hundred yards north of the Old Bridge. Two miles out is **New Scone** (for historic Old Scone, *see* p. 357). The Sidlaw Hills are on the right, and beyond Balbeggie we are opposite **Dunsinane Hill**, the traditional site of Macbeth's Castle. **Coupar Angus** (*Royal* (10 rooms; *R. and b., 7s. 6d.*), *Strathmore, Railway*) has vestiges of the wealthy Cistercian Abbey founded here by Malcolm IV in 1164. "Angus" is the old name, now officially re-adopted, for the county of Forfar, and is here used to distinguish the town from Cupar in Fife. Coupar Angus is, however, regarded as being in Perthshire, which contains its larger and more modern portion.

A good road goes northward to **Blairgowrie** (p. 358); southward there is a road to **Dundee** (p. 354).

Five miles east of Coupar Angus is **Meigle**, with a museum containing sculptured stones of much interest to archæologists and Arthurians, for they are said to mark the grave of Queen Guinevere, who was imprisoned on Barry Hill, a mile or so from Alyth.

Alyth (pronounced *ail-lith*) is a featureless but thriving town on the south slopes of the Grampians. There is golf and fishing, and the place is a centre for some good local excursions. (*Hotels: Airlie Arms, Commercial.*)

1. **Airlie Castle** (5½ miles north-east. Grounds, including the Den, open on Tuesdays and Saturdays.), an ancient home of the Ogilvys, Earls of Airlie, is prettily situated at the junction of the picturesque Melgam and Isla. The old castle, "*The Bonnie Hoose o' Airlie*," was burned in 1640 by the Earl of Argyll.

2. **The Slug of Auchrannie**, 2 miles from Airlie Castle by path beside the Isla, a series of falls in a fine sandstone gorge.

3. **Reekie Linn** (5 miles north).—Walkers may follow the old road over the Hill of Alyth (966 feet); motors turn to left out of road to Airlie Castle. The routes unite about 3 miles from

the town; take the right-hand branch at fork, and a mile farther turn up a lane through a farm-gate. At the end of the lane pass through a wicket, from which the linn is but a short distance. The river, in three plunges, falls sixty feet.

4. **Kirkton of Glenisla** (10 miles).—This excursion may be a continuation of that to Reekie Linn. Opposite the lane referred to in No. 3 is a road on the left. Follow that to its junction with a high-road from Alyth, and then follow the latter for 4 miles. It leads up a hill called the **Druim Dearg** ("Red Ridge"). Near the summit (1,487 feet) a track on the right leads down to **Kirkton of Glenisla**, where is a comfortable hotel. The best road, however, leaves the main road half a mile beyond the Reekie Linn and strikes due north to Dykend, where it joins the road from Kirriemuir to Glenisla. Glenisla is the habitat of many flowers and ferns—among the latter the rare holly fern—and is a good trout-fishing centre. A motor-coach leaves Alyth for Glenisla and Folda in the morning and returns in the afternoon (time about 1½ hours each way).

5. **Mount Blair** (2,441 feet).—From Alyth to the summit is 14 miles. Proceed, as in No. 4, as far as the track near the summit of Druim Dearg. There is then a choice of two routes. For the Kirkton Hotel follow the track; otherwise keep to the main road, as by so doing a mile is saved. Beyond a stone bridge enter a lane leading to the buildings of a farm called Alrich, thence make for the middle of the eastern shoulder of Mount Blair, from which there is an easy climb to the summit. The descent may be made to the Spital of Glenshee, in a north-westerly direction, or to Blairgowrie, in a south-westerly direction. About a couple of hours' walking will take the tourist to the Spital of Glenshee Hotel (an anglers' "howf"), while Blairgowrie is about 15 miles from the summit of Mount Blair, and some 12 miles from the point at which the high-road is reached. A motor runs in the afternoon from Glenshee to Cally Bridge and Blairgowrie (time, 2 hours).

6. **Braemar** (85 miles).—Proceed up Glenisla to Folda (14 miles), near the ruins of **Forter Castle** (supposed by some to be the scene of the ballad of "The Bonnie Hoose o' Airlie") and the shooting lodge of **Tulchan**, 5 miles farther. Follow the Isla a mile beyond the lodge, and then take a path by the Glas Burn on the left that leads to the ridge of **Monega Hill** (2,917 feet). The path then bears north-west to near the top of **Glas Maol** (3,502 feet), where three counties meet. This, perhaps the highest hill-path in Scotland (3,250 feet), was at one time much used by smugglers. The descent is made into **Glen Clunie**, joining the Cairnwell road at the Sheann Spittal Bridge, 7½ miles south of Braemar.

Motorists should proceed *via* Blairgowrie, Spital of Glenshee, and the Devil's Elbow. For Braemar, *see* p. 370.

Eastward from Coupar Angus the road passes through

Meikle, to the south of which, above Newtyle, a ruined watch-tower on **Kinpurney Hill** (1,134 feet) is prominent. Six miles farther is Glamis (*Glaams*), with **Glamis Castle** (Earl of Strathmore), a magnificent baronial pile, which for seven centuries has looked across the richly wooded valley of Strathmore to the Grampians. *When the family is not in residence the Castle and grounds are open, on Fridays, to a limited number of genuinely interested visitors who have applied for and obtained permits from the factor.*

The Castle is not well seen from the main Forfar road, but by diverging for about a mile, at the road junction on reaching Glamis, along the Kirriemuir road, a good view of the Castle may be had from the road.

The Castle was the headquarters of the Covenanters' army and later of the forces of the Young Pretender. The latter deemed it one of the fairest castles he had seen, and he knew some of the stately palaces of France and Italy. Part of it was rebuilt after a fire in 1800. A beautiful avenue and a wonderful crypt are notable features, and the popular belief is that there is a secret chamber known only to the Earl, his heir-apparent when he comes of age; and his factor. The association of Glamis with Shakespeare's *Macbeth* is well known. The place also awakens memories of a Lady Glamis, falsely accused by a discarded suitor of practising the art of witchcraft against the life of James V, and dragged to death at the stake on the Castle Hill of Edinburgh, nearly four centuries ago. Her real offence was probably that she was by birth a Douglas. A happier page in the family history was written in 1923, when Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, daughter of the fourteenth Earl of Strathmore, married the then Duke of York. Here, in 1930, was born their second child, the Princess Margaret Rose, the first royal babe born in Scotland for three hundred years. The proudest page in the history of Glamis, however, was written in 1937 with the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

Some 5 miles north of Glamis is **Kirriemuir** ("Thrums"—the birthplace of Sir J. M. Barrie, O.M.). It is a small town of 3,408 inhabitants, 6 miles by rail from Forfar, pleasantly situated on the southern slopes of the Braes of Angus. (*Hotels: Airlie Arms (12 rooms; R. and b., 7s. 6d.) Ogilvy Arms, Thrums, Temperance, etc.*) It is within easy reach of trout streams, and has an 18-hole golf course (2s. 6d. per day; 6s. per week). The house in which

Sir James Barrie was born, with the Wash-house that was his "first theatre," the "Window," the "Glen" and other scenes in the Barrie novels, are in the town or the immediate vicinity.

Northward from Kirriemuir Glen Clova winds far into the Grampians, **Glen Prosen** coming in from the north-west at Cortachy (5 miles). Motor daily as far as **Clova** (15 miles; *inn*), a hamlet that is the centre of the mountain district known as the *Braes of Angus*.

Clova to Braemar (18 miles).—Follow the road to Brae-downie (3 miles), cross the river and take a path which passes to the left of the Lodge and strikes up Glen Doll to Jock's Road at the head of that Glen. The path then goes north-west, passing high above Loch Esk (on the right) and the **Tolmount**, (3,143 feet) on the left, and then drops down into the glen leading to Loch Callater, from the north-west end of which a rough road leads down to join the Cairnwell road, 2 miles short of Braemar.

Clova to Ballater (19 miles).—Proceed as above to Brae-downie Bridge. Do not cross it, but follow the cart-track for three-quarters of a mile and there strike up Capel Mount, on the right. The path is more distinct in its upper than its lower part, and is indicated by poles and occasional cairns. On either side is a swamp. Descend to the Spital of Glenmuick, half a mile beyond the end of Loch Muick, from which a road leads down the glen to Ballater. Four miles beyond the Spital the road passes the Linn of Muick, a fine waterfall, and 5 miles farther reaches Ballater.

Forfar,

(*Hotels: County (18 rooms; R. & b., 6s. 6d.), Salutation.*)

the county town of Angus, a place of 9,587 inhabitants, was created a royal burgh by David I. It stands at the east end of the Loch of Forfar, the traditional scene of the drowning of the murderers of Banquo or Malcolm II; on its shores there was a Castle, the occasional residence of Malcolm Canmore and his Queen. Forfar has figured frequently in Scottish history. Edward I and Robert Bruce both captured it. The Cross was presented by Charles II in recognition of its loyalty in the Civil War. The chief buildings are the Town Hall and the Reid Hall, the latter the gift, along with a public park (above which rises Balmashanner Hill, with a look-out tower War Memorial), of a local manufacturer of "rock." Forfar rock, with Forfar "pasties," Forfar witches, Forfar lawyers, and the "Forfar Coo," are celebrated widely.

About a mile east of Forfar are the remains of **Restenneth Priory** (thirteenth century; *admission, 6d.*), an offshoot of

Jedburgh Abbey. Two miles farther is **Rescobie Loch** and still farther eastward is **Guthrie Castle**, built in 1468, and much enlarged in modern times.

About 10 miles north-east of Forfar is—

Brechin.

Angling.—In the Cruick. In the South Esk by permission.

Early Closing.—Wednesday.

Golf.—An 18-hole course; 1s. 6d. per day; 5s. per week; 10s. per month.

Hotels.—*Commercial* (22 rooms; R. & b., fr. 5s.), *Dalhousie*, *Brown House*, *Crown*, etc.

Population.—7,446.

Brechin, pleasantly situated on the *South Esk*, is a centre of the linen trade. The **Cathedral**, founded in the twelfth century, was restored in 1901, and is used as a parish church. It contains some perfect specimens of Early English architecture, and is of great interest. At the south-western corner is a **Round Tower** (one of two in the mainland of Scotland, the other being at Abernethy, in Strathearn), nearly a hundred feet high, similar to the round towers of Ireland. It dates from the tenth or eleventh century. In the churchyard are some remarkable tombstones.

Brechin Castle held out for three weeks against Edward I. It was then in possession of Sir Thomas Maule, and is still the residence of the representative of the Maule family, the Earl of Dalhousie.

On the **Caterhun Hills** (5 miles north-west of Brechin) are concentric rings of loose stones, believed to be remains of Pictish forts. The largest collection, known as the *White Caterhun*, is on the left-hand side of a rough road which crosses the hills; to the right is the *Brown Caterhun*. Similar remains are on the next height, Lundie Hill.

Brechin is mainly of importance to tourists and other holiday-makers in Angus on account of the access through Edzell into Glen Esk.

Edzell (*Glenesk* (30 rooms; R. and b., 9s. 6d.), *Panmure* (50 rooms; R. and b., fr. 9s. 6d), *Central*), a small town, 6 miles north of Brechin, in the valley of the *North Esk*, is famed for its beauty. There is golf (1s. 6d. per round; 2s. 6d. per day (Sundays 5s., on introduction by a member); 12s. 6d. per week; £2 per month); and a mile away is the *West Water*, a good trout stream. James Inglis, author of *Oor Ain Folk*, etc., was born in the manse at Edzell. A mile or so west are the ruins of

Edzell Castle. The ornamentation of the garden walls is unique in Scotland and the garden has now been attractively laid out by the Commissioners of H.M. Office of Works in keeping with its early seventeenth-century period. (*Weekdays* 10–4, 6 or 7. *Sundays* 2–6 (October–February 1–3). *Admission to garden*, 3d.)

There is a nice walk from **Gannochoy Bridge** (1¼ miles north), with a charming view of the river gorge. Cross the bridge and apply at the lodge on the left for permission to enter. Follow path by river-side for nearly a couple of miles, to the road 3 miles from Edzell.

Edzell to Ballater (28 miles), *via* Tarfside (12 miles), Loch Lee (16 miles), and Mount Keen (3,077 feet).

The road leads up Glen Esk from beyond Gannochoy Bridge and in about 17 miles reaches the ruined Invermark Castle, at the junction of Glen Mark and Glen Lee. The bridle path goes up Glen Mark and in a mile or two reaches the Queen's Well, whence the route (the **Mounth Road**) lies through beautiful and varied scenery. The path, well marked, strikes steeply up the west side of the Ladder Burn and in 2½ miles reaches the watershed (2,504 feet) just to the west of the peak of **Mount Keen**, well worth ascending for the little extra effort required. The path now dips into Glen Tanner and crosses the stream to the remains of a ruined house. From this point a good private road leads down the Glen to Aboyne. The Ballater path strikes northward up the hill-side and when above Etnach turns north-west and passes through the fence on the sky-line by a gate. Thence west, very indistinct, across the head of the Pollagach Burn to cross the next ridge by a dip about half a mile north of Cairn Leuchan. From here a rough road leads down to the south Deeside road, which it joins near the bridge over the Muick, ¾ mile from Ballater.

To **Banchory** (24 miles), by road. *Via* Gannochoy Bridge to the pretty village of **Fettercairn** (4½ miles) (*hotel*). Then by the west side of **Finella Hill** (1,358 feet) to **Clattering Bridge** (8 miles); **Cairn o' Mounth**, 1,488 feet high and commanding a fine view; **Bridge of Dye** (14 miles); **Bogendreep Bridge** (18 miles); the village of **Strachan** (20½ miles); and past the **Bridge of Feugh** into **Banchory**.

Montrose.

Distances.—Aberdeen, 37 m.; Brechin, 8 m.; Dundee, 29 m.; Stonehaven, 24 m.

Early Closing.—Wednesday.

Hotels.—*Star*, *George* (18 rooms; R. & b., 8s. 6d.), *Marine*, *Park* (*unlicensed*) (36 rooms, R. & b., fr. 4s.), *Central*.

Sports.—Bathing, bowls, tennis, cricket, boating, fishing, golf (*see below*).

Montrose, a town of great antiquity, is entered from the south by a bridge over the lagoon-like Montrose Basin, nearly 2 miles square. It is prettily laid out and possesses many attractions for visitors. Its golf links include two "Championship" Courses and a 9-hole course. (Best course: 1s. 6d. per round, 10s. per week, £1 per month.)

A magnificent sandy bathing beach extends for 4 miles. William the Lion, Balliol and James VI are among the many historical personages associated with its Castle (now vanished), and James Hume was among its "sons."

The principal road from Montrose to Stonehaven is by the coast (the other goes inland through Marykirk and joins the Brechin-Aberdeen road just short of Laurencekirk (*Royal*), a town once famous for the manufacture of snuff-boxes). The coast road needs no description, though motorists who are not in a hurry will find it worth while to turn down some of the side roads for the sake of the unsophisticated villages overlooking the sea and, particularly in later stages of the journey, for the fine coast views. The most remunerative halt is at **Dunnottar Castle** (*admission, 1s.; children, 6d.*), a mile or so short of Stonehaven, and approached from a new gateway with motor park, etc. Before beginning the walk down to the Castle inquire at lodge regarding the admission, as unless the Caretaker is there one has a long and rather tiring walk to small purpose.

The best view of the Castle is from the edge of the cliff a few hundred yards from the road, and even those unable to explore the interior of this fine old stronghold—one of the most impressive ruins in Britain—should come thus far.

Long the stronghold of the powerful Keiths, Earls Marischal of Scotland, the Castle stands on the summit of a cliff washed on three sides by the sea; on the fourth it is almost separated from the mainland by a deep chasm, from which the ascent is steep and rugged. The ruins cover about three acres and consist of the great square tower, which is almost entire, broken towers and turrets, remains of the palace and the chapel, long ranges of roofless buildings and broken arches, and many dismal halls, vaults and chambers.

The Castle was taken from the English by Wallace in 1296. To the church which then stood on the crags some of the English soldiers fled for sanctuary, but only to find death in awful forms, for the building was fired and speedily became a furnace.

Forty years later Edward Balliol garrisoned the Castle with English soldiers, but it was again re-taken. In 1645 it was besieged by Montrose. Among those in it were sixteen Covenanting ministers, who urged the Earl Marischal to be firm in its defence, and to come to no terms with Belial, as they styled their foes, assuring him that the smoke of his farmsteads and villages burning on the mainland would be "a sweet smelling incense in the nostrils of the Lord." Six years later the Castle

was besieged by a Parliamentary force, and as starvation threatened to compel surrender, the ancient Scottish Regalia, which had been sent to it for safety, were in danger of being lost. They were smuggled out, through the blockading forces, and until the Restoration the Regalia lay buried under the floor of Kinneff Church.

The last of the cruel memories attached to Dunnottar is of the treatment of imprisoned Covenanters in 1685, when confined in one dungeon in the height of summer were 167 men, women and children. The remains of the prisoners released by death were interred in Dunnottar churchyard, where the **Covenanters' Stone** recording their names may still be seen. It was while clearing the inscription on this stone that Robert Paterson, the original of "Old Mortality," was seen by Sir Walter Scott, who was passing the night in the manse (*see p. 100*)

A mile or so beyond Dunnottar the road swings round a headland to reveal **Stonehaven** spread out below. Originally a fishing port, this place has of recent years taken its place among Scottish seaside resorts, and the quaint if "fishy" old town is now pinned against the Harbour and the protecting cliff by streets of more modern houses. Tennis, boating and golf, bathing and fishing, are the principal amusements, and there are a swimming pool, pavilion and dance hall. (Hotels: *Royal* (16 rooms; *R. and b., 5s.*), *Commercial, Marine, Stonehaven, County, Station* (14 rooms; *R. and b., 7s. 6d.*), and numerous boarding-houses and apartments.)

The "**Slug**" Road to Banchory (16 miles; p. 364) climbs to 700 feet, giving good views of the Cairngorms, and is a handy "short cut" into Deeside. *Raedykes*, a Roman camp about 5 miles out from Stonehaven, has been identified as the site of the Battle of Mons Graupius (A.D. 86), in which Agricola decisively defeated the Caledonians under Galgacus.

About 5 miles north of Stonehaven turnings on the right lead to **Muchalls** (*hotel*), a primitive fishing village perched on the cliff near some of the finest rock scenery in the north-east of Scotland. **Findon** or **Finnan**, farther north, was once famed for smoked haddocks, which perpetuate its name—"Finnan haddies."

Now the spires and towers of Aberdeen break the skyline in front and shortly the road crosses the sixteenth-century Bridge of Dee. Turn to the right along Holburn Street for Union Street and the city centre.

(*Note*.—The by-pass road to Inverness and the North (Anderson Drive) continues straight on and avoids the city.)

For **Aberdeen**, *see page 359.*